

AL 1.1397

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# 2003 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations

FREE OF CHARGE



**ALBERTA  
HUNTERS OF THE YEAR**  
see page 76

**SUNRISE/SUNSET  
TABLE** see pages 40 & 41

— painting by Tyler Thompson

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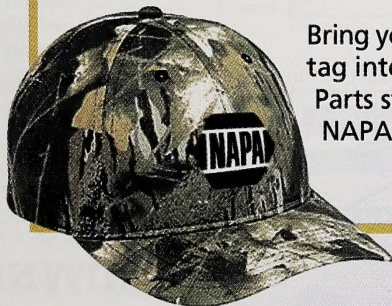


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### 270 WSM VS. 270 WINCHESTER

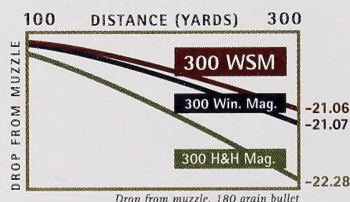
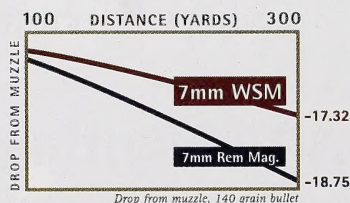
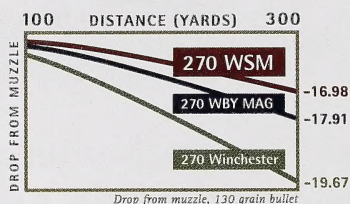
- 270 WSM cartridge is more than 1/2" shorter than the 270 Winchester.
- Muzzle velocity of 270 WSM with a 130 grain bullet is 225 fps. faster and delivers 401 ft. lbs. more muzzle energy than a comparable 270 Winchester 130 grain load.

### 7mm WSM VS. 7mm REMINGTON MAGNUM

- 7mm WSM cartridge is more than 1/2" shorter than the 7mm Remington Magnum.
- Muzzle velocity of 7mm WSM with a 140 grain bullet is 100 fps. faster and delivers 196 ft. lbs. more muzzle energy than a comparable 7mm Magnum 140 grain load.

### 300 WSM VS. 300 WINCHESTER MAGNUM

- 300 WSM cartridge is more than 1/2" shorter than the 300 Winchester Magnum.
- The 300 WSM with a 150 grain bullet is roughly equal to a comparable 300 Winchester Magnum 150 grain load in muzzle velocity and muzzle energy.



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## Notice to Hunters

**The Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development frequently conducts roadblocks to assist in the management of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and to ensure compliance with existing legislation.**

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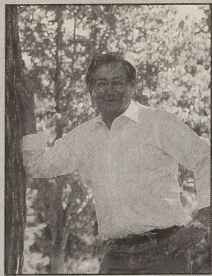
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# Minister's Message



Alberta is pleased to welcome hunters from near and far. Few other locations provide sporting opportunities for such a great range of wildlife, in such varied terrain as prairie, boreal forest, foothills and mountains.

As Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, I enjoy being closely involved with hunting and angling in Alberta. Many Albertans are familiar with our Fish and Wildlife Division, which is responsible for managing, conserving and allocating fish and wildlife.

This year's hunting season provides many increased opportunities for hunters. For example, to address large deer populations in some areas and reduce animal-vehicle accidents, we increased the number of wildlife management units that offer supplemental white-tailed deer licences. Similarly, we extended the length of the season for antlerless white-tailed deer in other areas.

Following ongoing research, opportunities for hunting mountain goats were expanded through the addition of some locations in the Willmore Wilderness Park. Sports enthusiasts will likely also be pleased that several more wildlife management units now offer Sunday hunting.

This guide contains information about hunting opportunities in Alberta, including regulations to ensure a sustainable wildlife resource. Please read this booklet carefully and follow the directives so that we will continue to have abundant wildlife to enjoy.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.

Mike Cardinal  
Minister  
Sustainable Resource Development

**Alberta**  
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE  
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Fish & Wildlife

## DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will help you understand this Guide:

**Antlered** – a white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk having an antler exceeding 10.2 cm (4 in.) in length.

**Antlerless** – a white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk that is not "antlered" (as defined above).

**Bait** – any substance that consists of a food attractant, including any mineral and any representation of a food attractant.

**Big Game Designated Guide** – a person designated by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society to commercially guide big game hunters in Alberta. A Designated Guide may guide not more than two Non-resident (Canadian) and non-resident alien big game hunters at a time in any part of Alberta, provided that each Non-resident (Canadian) or Non-resident alien has contracted the hunt through an Outfitter-guide. The two-hunter limit does not include Resident hunters.

**Big Game Outfitter-guide** – a person who is the holder of a valid Outfitter-guide Permit, and who provides outfitting and guiding services to big game hunters in Alberta.

- Class S Outfitter-guide – an Outfitter-guide who holds Non-resident (Canadian)/Non-resident Alien allocations for Trophy Sheep Special Licences. A Class S Outfitter-guide may also hold allocations for other big game special licences.

- Class T Outfitter-guide – an Outfitter-guide who holds allocations valid for Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien big game special licences other than those for trophy sheep.

**Bird Game Designated Guide** – a person designated by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society to commercially guide game bird hunters in Alberta.

**Bird Game Outfitter-guide** – a person who is the holder of a valid Bird Game Outfitter-guide Permit issued by the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society, and who provides outfitting and guiding services to non-resident and non-resident alien game bird hunters in Alberta.

**Hunter Host** – an adult resident who is the holder of a valid Hunter Host Licence. A Hunter Host **may not provide services for gain or reward, or accept a fee for services.**

The licence authorizes the holder (**usually a relative or friend of the hunters to be hosted**) to host a maximum of two non-residents (Canadian) or non-resident aliens\* named on the host's licence to hunt wolf, coyote and big game throughout the province. \* Non-resident alien hunters are referred to Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 17) for additional conditions and restrictions.

**Green Area** – forest lands not available for agricultural development other than grazing. In general, the Green Area is public land outside the parkland and prairie regions, or roughly in the northern half of the province and within a strip running along the Rocky Mountains and foothills.

**Non-resident (Canadian)** – a person who is not a Resident (see below), but who makes his or her home and is ordinarily present in Canada, and who has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date.

**Non-resident Alien** – a person who is neither a Resident (see below) nor a Non-resident (see above).

**OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle)** – any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh or swamp land, or on other natural terrain. [Exceptions: motor boats, as well as four-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles registered in accordance with the *Traffic Safety Act*.] Among OHVs, include the following kinds of vehicles when they are designed for cross-country travel as described above:

- four-wheel drive or low pressure tire vehicles,
- motorcycles and related two-wheel vehicles,
- amphibious machines,
- all-terrain vehicles,
- miniature motor vehicles,
- snow vehicles,
- minibikes, or
- any other means of transportation that is propelled by any power other than muscular power or wind.

**Partner Licence** – a licence issued to an eligible hunter that allows him or her to hunt antlered or antlerless moose in a specified WMU and season under the direct authority of an Antlered Moose or Antlerless Moose Special Licence held by another hunter successful in the draw.

Alberta's Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regulations Online

**www.albertaoutdoorsmen.ca**



**Resident** – a person who either

- has his or her only or primary residence in Alberta and
  - 1) is a Canadian citizen or is admitted to permanent residence in Canada, or
  - 2) has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date; or
- is on full-time service with the Armed Forces of Canada and would, if an election were held under the *Elections Act* (Canada), be eligible to vote in Alberta under that Act.

**Special Licence** – a licence obtained through a draw process, or for Non-resident and Non-resident Alien hunters, through an Outfitter-guide. It permits hunting of a specific type or class of game only in specific areas during a specified season (page 16).

**Weapon** – a firearm or any other device that propels a projectile by means of an explosion, spring, air, gas, string, wire or elastic material or any combination of those things.

**White Geese** – snow and Ross' Geese.

**WMU** – Wildlife Management Unit, a geographical area prescribed in legislation.

**WIN** – Wildlife Identification Number, a permanent registration number issued to each hunter and angler.

**Month Abbreviations**

The following defines the month abbreviations used in this guide:

- A – August   S – September   O – October  
 N – November   D – December  
 J – January   F – February   M – March  
 Ap – April   Ma – May   Ju – June

**Attention**

**All Black Bear and  
 Non-resident (Canadian)  
 Non-resident Alien  
 Wolf/Coyote Hunters**

If you purchase one of these licences for the spring season, it can be used for the following fall of the same calendar year. This applies for any of the following: Wildlife Certificate, Black Bear Licence (Resident or Non-Resident [Canadian]), Black Bear Special Licence (Non-resident [Canadian] or Non-Resident Alien), Supplemental Black Bear Licence (Resident or Non-Resident [Canadian]) or a Non-Resident (Canadian)/Non-Resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence.

**DON'T DISCARD IT!**

It can be used for the following fall season.

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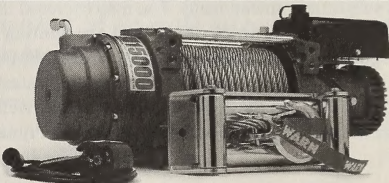
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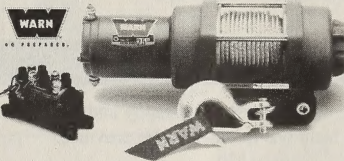
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## GENERAL

- The Sunday hunting opportunity has been extended to WMUs 326, 328, 416, 417, 418 and 429.
- All wolves killed in WMUs 416-426 must now also be registered.
- The minimum cartridge case length for big game hunting has been removed. The minimum .23 calibre requirement remains in effect.

## BIG GAME

- A few WMUs have been added to special licence draws for antlered and antlerless moose, antlerless mule deer and elk.
- The antlered moose season in WMUs 531, 532, 534, 539 and 540 has been changed to a special draw season from September 1 to November 30.
- Archery hunters must now participate in the draw for antlered and antlerless moose in WMUs 318-332 and 429.
- A Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence has been created for resident hunters.
- An Archery-only Trophy Sheep Special Licence has been created for that portion of WMU 408 west of Highway 40 from November 1 - 30.
- A mountain goat season has been opened in four new Mountain Goat Hunting Areas.
- The non-trophy antelope season has been closed in two Antelope Management Areas (page 48).
- The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence has been added to WMUs 326-330, 339, 342, 344, 347, 349-356, 360, 436-446, 511, 520, 523-525, 528, 534-542. WMUs 300 - 308 have been removed.
- Non-residents (Canadian) may hunt antlerless white-tailed deer under a general licence in WMUs where there is an either sex season.
- The antlerless white-tailed deer season has been increased to one month from November 1 - November 30 in WMUs 326, 328, 330, 339-347, 349-356, 360, 521, 523, 527 and 537.
- WMUs 216, 334 and 336 have been opened for cougar hunting.

## WMU DESCRIPTIONS

The WMU boundaries shown on the enclosed map are small-scale approximations of the actual units legally described in the *Wildlife Regulation* (AR 143/97) and subsequent amendments. The map enclosed in this Guide is provided to help you identify the WMU in which you wish to hunt. **It is your responsibility to know in which WMU you are hunting and the seasons, rules and regulations that govern hunting in that WMU.** Text descriptions of the WMU boundaries may be either read at your nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office or through the Alberta Queen's Printer web site ([www.gov.ab.ca/qp](http://www.gov.ab.ca/qp)) or purchased from The Queen's Printer at the following addresses:

10611 - 98 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7	#602, 620 - 7th Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB T2P 0Y8
Telephone: (780) 427-4952	Telephone: (403) 297-6251

**NOTE: The Queen's Printer does not sell maps.**

## MAPS

Maps providing information about access, topography and land ownership can be purchased at several locations throughout the province.

### Provincial and Federal Maps

Provincial and federal access and topographical maps are available from various private map dealers throughout the province.

### County and Other Municipal Maps

Hunters are reminded to check with county and municipal offices for detailed maps showing land ownership status. These maps are available for a nominal fee and are useful for determining land status and ownership, which can help you obtain permission for access.

## Disclaimers

This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete listing of current Alberta Hunting Regulations. It is a summary of the regulations and is published annually by Sports Scene Publications Inc. to help hunters understand the rules of hunting. Details of the regulations may be obtained from the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10).

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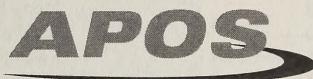
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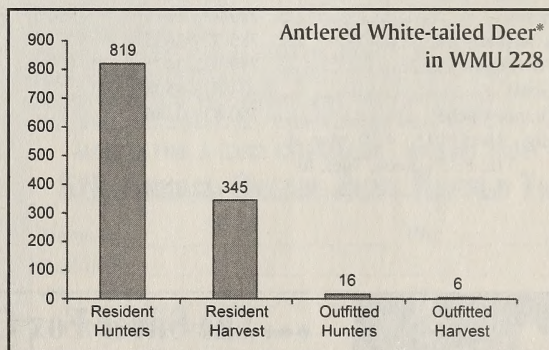
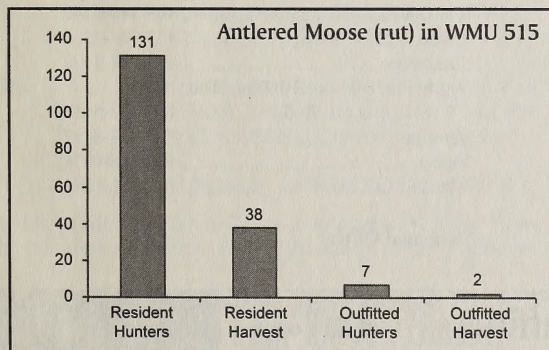
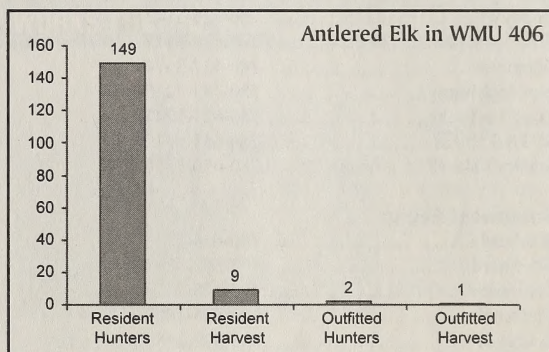
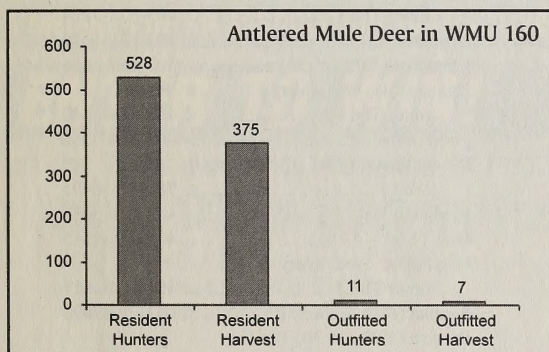
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## How?

- By being another voice advocating increased hunting opportunities and the conservation of wildlife in Alberta.
- By being involved in local communities, employing Albertans and promoting hunting as a natural use of renewable resources.
- By contributing an estimated \$63.1 million per year to the Alberta economy.



Despite being limited to a small portion of the hunting opportunities available. For example, the following charts illustrate the number of licenses sold in 2002 to residents and outfitted hunters in some popular WMUs, and the resultant harvest of animals by residents and outfitted hunters (*data courtesy of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development*).



\*Resident hunter licenses estimated from the annual hunter survey

## Alberta Professional Outfitters Society

#103, 6030-88 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6G4

Tel. 780-414-0249 Fax. 780-465-6801 Web. [www.apos.ab.ca](http://www.apos.ab.ca)



## FURTHER INQUIRIES

The following sources are available for further information about these regulations or other matters concerning fish or wildlife management:

### Information Centre

Edmonton ..... 780-944-0313  
E-mail: ..... env.infocent@gov.ab.ca

Web Site — <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd> – go to “Fish and Wildlife,”  
then to “Hunting in Alberta” or go to  
<http://www.albertaoutdoorsmen.ca/huntingregs/>

### Fish and Wildlife Division Head Office Mailing Address

Fish and Wildlife Division  
Great West Life Building  
9920 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4



Fish & Wildlife

## Fish and Wildlife Division Local Office Telephone Numbers

For toll-free access within Alberta to most Alberta Government offices, call 310-0000.

### Northwest Region

Fairview ..... 780-835-2737  
Fort Vermilion (8:15 – noon) ..... 780-927-4488  
Grande Prairie ..... 780-538-5265  
High Level (8:15 – noon) ..... 780-926-2238  
High Prairie ..... 780-523-6520  
Manning (8:15 – noon) ..... 780-836-3065  
\*Peace River ..... 780-624-6405  
Red Earth (8:15 – noon) ..... 780-649-3853  
Slave Lake ..... 780-849-7110  
Spirit River ..... 780-864-4101  
Valleyview ..... 780-524-3605

### Northeast Region

Athabasca ..... 780-675-2419  
Bonnyville ..... 780-826-3142  
Cold Lake ..... 780-639-3377  
Edmonton ..... 780-427-3574  
Fort McMurray ..... 780-743-7200  
\*Lac La Biche ..... 780-623-5247  
St. Paul ..... 780-645-6313  
Smoky Lake (8:15 – noon) ..... 780-656-3556

### Southwest Region

Barrhead ..... 780-674-8236  
Blairmore ..... 403-562-3289  
Canmore ..... 403-678-2373  
Claresholm ..... 403-625-1450  
Cochrane ..... 403-932-2388  
Drayton Valley ..... 780-542-6616  
Edson ..... 780-723-8244  
Evansburg ..... 780-727-3635  
Fox Creek ..... 780-622-3421  
Ghost ..... 403-678-5508  
Grande Cache ..... 780-827-3356  
High River (8:15 – 4:30, Mon. &  
Fri.; 8:15 – noon, Tues. to  
Thu) ..... 403-652-8320

Hinton ..... 780-865-8264  
Nordegg (8:15 – noon) ..... 403-721-3965  
Pincher Creek ..... 403-627-1116  
\*Rocky Mountain House ..... 403-845-8230  
Stony Plain ..... 780-963-6131  
Sundre ..... 403-638-3805  
Swan Hills ..... 780-333-2229  
Whitecourt ..... 780-778-7112

### Southeast Region

Brooks ..... 403-362-1232  
\*Calgary ..... 403-297-6423  
Camrose ..... 780-679-1225  
Cardston ..... 403-653-5158  
Coronation (Tue. Wed. every  
other Thu.) ..... 403-578-3224  
Drumheller ..... 403-823-1670  
Foremost (1:00 – 4:30) ..... 403-867-3826  
Hanna (Tue. Wed. every  
other Thu.) ..... 403-854-5540  
Lethbridge ..... 403-381-5266  
Lloydminster (9:00 – 3:00 Mon. to  
Wed.) ..... 780-871-6495  
Medicine Hat ..... 403-529-3680  
Olds (1:00 – 4:30) ..... 403-556-4215  
Oyen (Tue. Wed. every  
other Thu.) ..... 403-664-3614  
Ponoka (8:15 – noon) ..... 403-783-7093  
Provost (1:00 – 4:30, Tue.;  
8:15 – 4:30, Wed. Thu.) ..... 780-753-2433  
Red Deer ..... 403-340-5142  
Stettler (8:15 – noon) ..... 403-742-7510  
Strathmore ..... 403-934-3422  
Vegreville (8:15 – 4:30, Mon. Tue.;  
8:15 – noon, Wed.) ..... 780-632-5410  
Vermilion ..... 780-853-8137  
Vulcan ..... 403-485-6971  
Wetaskiwin ..... 780-361-1250

\*Regional Office

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# Did you know that The Alberta Fish and Game Association is the largest and oldest organization protecting habitat and wildlife in our province?



On your behalf our 15,000 Member Volunteers have accomplished a lot since our beginning in 1908

## Some of our greatest accomplishments include:

- Insuring government cooperation so that **HUNTERS** like you have access to public lands to hunt on.
- Purchasing over 30,000 acres of land so that all **HUNTERS** have foot access to prime hunting land.
- Successfully work with Fish and Wildlife to protect the rights of Alberta's **HUNTERS** with respect to hunting regulations every year.

## ALBERTA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Mail to: AFGA, 6924 - 104 Street, Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7 or fax 780-438-6872

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ALBERTA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION - WILDLIFE TRUST FUND

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Hunt Date: September 7th - 15th, 2004

**2nd Prize:** 7-Day NWT Central Barren Ground Caribou hunt for Two with True North Safaris valued at \$11,685.00.  
Hunt Dates: Between Aug. 20th & Sept. 22nd, 2004

**3rd Prize:** 2-Day Canmore Weekend Getaway for Two to Fish the Bow River for Brown Trout and Spray Lakes for Lake Caribou with Wapiti Sports and Outfitters valued at \$1,598.00.  
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Proceeds to Alberta Fish & Game Association Wildlife Trust Fund to Purchase Critical Fish & Wildlife Habitat in Alberta

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- Prize must be accepted as awarded
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Alberta Fish and Game Association 6924 - 104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 2L7

Phone: (780) 437-2342 Fax: (780) 438-6872 E-mail: office@afga.org Web site: www.afga.org



## Prohibitions

**Note:** *Convictions for certain offences will result in the suspension of all recreational hunting licences for a period of 1 to 3 years, and may result in a suspension for as long as 5 or more years. This is in addition to the assessment of a fine, an order and/or imprisonment.*

**Loaded Firearms** — A firearm in or on a vehicle, aircraft or boat is considered loaded if it has live ammunition in the breech, chamber or magazine, unless cartridges are in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm. See Item 7 below for further information.

## General

It is unlawful to

1. carry or use another person's licence or tag or allow another person to use your licence or tag.
2. harass, injure or kill any wildlife with a vehicle, aircraft or boat.
3. hunt any wildlife with or from an aircraft, or communicate, for the purpose of hunting, the signs or whereabouts of wildlife seen during a flight on an aircraft.
4. transport dead wildlife taken by others without an accompanying bill of lading (letter of authorization) signed by the licence or permit holder and providing the following details:
  - the kind and number of the licence under which the wildlife was killed or possessed,
  - a description of the wildlife,
  - the points of origin and destination, and
  - the date on which the wildlife is to be transported.
5. set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of **hunting any wildlife**:
  - an arrow equipped with an explosive head,
  - a firearm that is capable of firing more than one bullet during one pressure of the trigger or a firearm that can be altered to operate as such,
  - a light,
  - a shotgun of a gauge greater than 10,
  - a device designed to deaden the sound of the report of a firearm,
  - recorded wildlife calls or sounds, or an electrically operated calling device,
  - a pistol or revolver,
  - live wildlife,
  - a swivel set or spring gun, or
  - a poisonous substance or an immobilizing drug.
6. allow the edible meat of any game bird or big game animal — except cougar, grizzly bear or black bear — to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned.

7. have a loaded firearm (live ammunition in breech, chamber or magazine) in or on, or discharge a **weapon** from
  - a boat unless the boat is propelled by muscular power or is at anchor and the person is hunting, or
  - any kind of aircraft or vehicle whether it is moving or stationary.

**Note:** Ammunition may be carried in a magazine that is not attached to the firearm. Contact a local police service for more information regarding federal firearms legislation.
8. discharge a **weapon** within 183 m (200 yards) or cause a projectile from a **weapon** to pass within 183 m (200 yards) of any occupied building. Owners, occupants, or persons authorized by the owner or occupant are excepted, subject to local bylaws.
9. discharge a firearm from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across:
  - a primary highway,
  - a road allowance containing a road that is paved, oiled, graded or regularly maintained, unless
    - the road is held under any active disposition under the *Public Lands Act* or under an order under the *Surface Rights Act*, or
    - the person is hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a licence.
10. hunt any wildlife while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
11. hunt any wildlife **or discharge a firearm** between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. (See sunrise/sunset table on page 40).
12. alter, destroy or remove any sign or notice that has been posted under the authority of the *Wildlife Act* or the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.
13. hunt any wildlife or discharge any firearm on or over occupied land or enter on to such land for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant of the land (page 23).  
**NOTE:** There is an additional requirement affecting access for guided hunts (page 24).
14. possess a firearm of a calibre larger than .22 in a helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
15. hunt with a firearm if you are under 18 years of age and not accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian. See page 22 for Federal Firearms contacts.
16. disturb traps, sets or trapping cabins.
17. hunt game on Sundays except in the Green Area portions of WMUs 326, 328, 347, 349-356, 360, 416-437, 440-446, 503, 511-521, 523-544 and 841, or while hunting white geese during the regular open season for white geese. See insert map.

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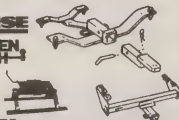
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# Big Game

It is unlawful to

1. set out, use or employ any of the following items for the purpose of **hunting big game**:
  - ammunition of less than .23 calibre,
  - ammunition that contains non-expanding bullets,
  - an auto-loading firearm that has the capacity to hold more than 5 cartridges in the magazine,
  - a shotgun having a gauge of .410 or less,
  - a shotgun in a bird sanctuary,
  - bait, except as permitted for the hunting of black bears (page 33),
  - an arrow other than an authorized arrow (page 32),
  - a bow other than an authorized bow (page 32),
  - a muzzle-loading firearm of less than .44 calibre,
  - a rifle or shotgun in WMUs 212, 248 or 410 (persons hunting under the authority of a Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence, a Foothills Deer Licence, or an Antlerless Moose Special Licence in Strathcona County may hunt with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, muzzleloader or shotgun),
  - a trap,
  - a cross-bow and arrow that is not authorized (see page 57).
2. discharge a **weapon** at a big game animal while it is swimming.
3. discharge an arrow from a bow at big game, from, along or across a highway or road specified in Item 9 on page 12.
4. be accompanied by a dog while hunting big game or allow a dog to pursue big game except when hunting cougar under the authority of a Cougar Licence.
5. possess the carcass of a male elk, male antelope or male non-trophy sheep unless the complete skull plate, with horns or antlers intact, is also retained with the carcass until it is delivered to
  - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
  - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.
6. possess the carcass of a calf moose taken under authority of a Calf Moose Special Licence unless its head is also retained with the carcass until it is delivered to
  - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
  - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.
7. allow the skin of any grizzly bear, black bear or cougar taken under the authority of a licence, to be wasted, destroyed, spoiled or abandoned.
8. remove the distinctive evidence of sex and species from the carcass of any big game until the carcass is delivered to
  - the usual residence of the person who killed it, and the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
  - a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or a Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.

In the case of grizzly bear and cougar, the evidence of sex must remain attached and be retained until the animal has been registered (page 31).
9. remove the tag from the carcass of a big game animal until authorized (as outlined on page 31).
10. hunt:
  - a grizzly bear under the age of two years,
  - a grizzly bear that is part of a group of two or more grizzly bears,
  - a black bear under the age of one year,

- a female black bear accompanied by a cub under the age of one year,
- a female cougar accompanied by a kitten with spotted fur, or
- a cougar kitten with spotted fur.

11. transport big game hunters, except those requiring medical aid, or big game by helicopter over WMUs 400-446.
12. land or take off in a fixed-wing aircraft that is carrying big game, big game hunters or firearms of a calibre larger than .22 at or from any location in WMUs 400-446 except those locations where aircraft routinely land and take off.
13. hunt big game within 6 hours of having disembarked from an aircraft, except for a jet or turbo-propelled aircraft.

## Game Bird

It is unlawful to

1. hunt game birds during an open season for male pheasants within designated pheasant release sites after 2:00 p.m., except Saturdays.
2. possess, before it has been transported to the usual residence of the person who killed it, a game bird which does not bear evidence of sex and species. Evidence of sex and species consists of one completely feathered wing attached to the carcass of the game bird, except for Merriam's turkey for which evidence of sex and species consists of the complete head and beard attached to the carcass (see page 50 for tagging instructions for Merriam's turkey).
3. hunt a migratory game bird with a firearm loaded with a single bullet.
4. hunt any game bird using:
  - a shotgun in which the magazine and chamber combined will hold more than three rounds of ammunition,
  - a trap, or
  - bait.

Note: see item 12 (below) for additional restrictions for hunting Merriam's turkey.
5. have more than one shotgun, for personal use, at any time while hunting migratory game birds unless each shotgun, in excess of one, is unloaded and disassembled or unloaded and cased.
6. hunt game birds in WMU 410 with other than a bow and arrow or falconry bird.
7. hunt game birds in WMU 212 or 248 with other than a bow and arrow, a cross-bow, shotgun or falconry bird.
8. exceed the daily or possession limit for any game bird (see game bird bag limits on page 52).
9. hunt game birds within 400 m (1/4 mi.) of a baited lure area operated under the Crop Damage Control Program.
10. transport migratory game birds belonging to others unless the carcasses are affixed with a tag showing:
  - the signature, name and address of the owner,
  - the licence number under which the bird was taken, and
  - the date the birds were taken.
11. fail to make every effort possible to immediately retrieve a migratory game bird that a person has killed or wounded. A hunter must have adequate means to retrieve any migratory bird that he or she may kill, cripple or injure.
12. hunt Merriam's turkey using:
  - a weapon other than a shotgun, cross-bow or a bow and arrow,

*continued on page 14*



- a shotgun with a bore diameter smaller than 20 gauge, or
- shot size smaller than No. 6 shot or larger than No. 2 shot.

13. remove the tag from a Merriam's turkey until authorized (page 50).

## LICENSING

### Licence System

IBM manages the sale of all recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta. Licences are sold exclusively through private licence issuers (e.g., sporting goods stores, convenience stores and gas stations) in communities throughout Alberta. Licences are not sold at Fish and Wildlife Division offices.

The automated system integrates all recreational licensing services, providing better service to hunters, anglers and licence issuers. Licence issuers print all licences and tags at point of sale. The system provides the Fish and Wildlife Division with important, up-to-date information about the hunters and anglers in the province.

To locate a licence issuer in your area of Alberta, contact the RELM (Recreational Licensing Management) Call Centre, toll-free in North America, at 1-888-944-5494, or go to the Hunting in Alberta web site (see page 10).

### Wildlife Identification Number (WIN)

Hunters and anglers in Alberta must possess a 10-digit Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) before applying for or purchasing any licence or wildlife certificate. The number is valid for five years and can be purchased for \$8.00.

If you are purchasing a WIN for the first time, the licence issuer gives you a paper receipt (which includes your new number) allowing you to purchase licences immediately. Your plastic card will be mailed to you within a few weeks.

**If you purchased your WIN card in 1998, you will be required to renew your WIN in 2003. Once your WIN has expired you must renew your WIN in order to purchase any 2003 licences. You can renew your WIN at any licence issuer for \$8.00 for another five years.**

## Please bring your WIN card!

Please bring your card when you purchase licences. The plastic WIN card allows the licence issuer to provide you with faster more efficient service.

Attention all hunters -

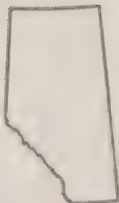
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If you have any questions about the WIN or the licensing system, please contact the RELM Call Centre, toll-free in North America, at 1-888-944-5494.

## Change of Address

All hunters should ensure their address and telephone number on their licence is correct. To update your mailing address, call (toll-free in North America) 1-888-944-5494, or fill out a WIN Application form at your local licence issuer.

### What is required to be eligible to hunt in Alberta?

Hunters in Alberta should be aware of federal regulations pertaining to possession and use of firearms (page 22), and provincial regulations pertaining to licensing of hunters. There are regulations that pertain to first-time hunters, youths, residents, non-residents and non-resident aliens.

All hunters must have a Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) as a prerequisite to applying for, or purchasing any hunting licence but some additional requirements must be met for the WIN-holder to be eligible to purchase hunting licences.

A person must possess a valid Wildlife Certificate and the applicable hunting licence in order to hunt big game or game birds. The hunter must carry the licence and applicable tag(s) on his or her person while hunting. A person applying for a draw is not required to possess a Wildlife Certificate but must purchase one before purchasing any hunting licence.

### Licensing requirements for first-time hunters

A first-time hunter is a hunter who 1) has not previously held a hunting licence in Alberta or elsewhere, or 2) has not passed a hunter competency test in Alberta or elsewhere, or 3) has not successfully completed a hunter education course in Alberta or elsewhere.

**Non-resident and non-resident alien** hunters are exempt from the first-time hunter eligibility requirement if they are accompanied by a Hunter Host or a Designated Guide while hunting in Alberta.

**Adult first-time hunters** who have not previously held a hunting licence in Alberta or elsewhere, have an option of completing the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course, or passing the Alberta Hunter Competency exam.

**Youth first-time hunters** (12 to 17 years of age) have two options, depending on age. First-time hunters **under 14 years of age** must complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course. Those **14 to 17 years of age** have the option of completing the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course or successfully completing the Alberta Hunter Competency exam. A youth must be **at least 12 years old** to hunt under the authority of any hunting licence in Alberta. All hunters **under the age of 16** years must have written permission from a parent or guardian to purchase hunting licences. Hunters who are **11 years old** may apply in the draws for licences if they meet the above criteria but they must be 12 years old anytime before or during the open season for that draw. They may not hunt until they are **12 years old**. Youths who are **12 or 13 years old** may hunt game birds with any legal weapon (see game bird prohibitions, page 13), but may only hunt big game with a bow and arrow or a cross-bow. To hunt with a firearm, hunters **14 to 17 years of age** must be accompanied by a parent, a legal guardian or by a person 18 years of age or older who has the written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

If you are interested in taking the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course, call the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association toll-free in Alberta at 1-866-852-4342, Edmonton 780-466-6682, or Calgary 403-252-8474.

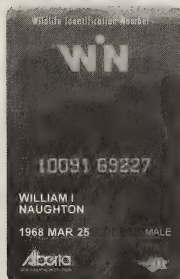
*continued on page 16*



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Beaumont	Crooked Creek	Hardisty	Nampa	Sundre (2)
Beaverlodge	Crossfield	High Level (3)	Nanton	Swan Hills (2)
Beaver Mines	Dapp	High Prairie (5)	Neerlandia	Sylvan Lake (2)
Bellevue	Dead Man's Flats	High River (2)	Nisku	Taber (3)
Bellis	Delburne	Hines Creek	Nordegg	Thorhild
Bentley	Devon	Hinton (5)	Okotoks (4)	Thorsby
Bergen	Didsbury	Hughenden	Olds (3)	Three Hills
Big Stone	Drayton Valley (4)	Hythe	Onoway	Tofield
Black Diamond	Drumheller (2)	Innisfail (1)	Oyen (2)	Tomahawk
Blackfalds	Duffield	Jarvie	Peace River (2)	Trochu
Blairmore	Eckville	Joussard	Picture Butte (2)	Turner Valley
Blue Ridge	Edgerton	Kananaskis	Pincher Creek (3)	Two Hills
Bonanza	Edmonton (39)	Killam	Pine Lake	Valleyview (2)
Bonnyville (2)	Edson (5)	Kinuso (2)	Plamondon	Vauxhaul
Bottrell	Elkpoint (3)	La Corey	Ponoka (2)	Vegreville (3)
Bow Island	Elkwater	La Crete (2)	Provost	Vermilion
Boyle (4)	Empress	Lac La Biche (5)	Rainbow Lake	Viking
Bragg Creek (2)	Entwistle	Lacombe (2)	Raymond	Vilna
Breton	Evansburg	Lamont	Red Deer (8)	Vulcan (2)
Brooks (5)	Fairview (3)	Leduc (4)	Red Earth Creek	Wabamun (2)
Buck Lake (2)	Falher	Legal	Redcliff	Wabasca
Calgary (38)	Falun	Lethbridge (10)	Redwater	Wainwright
Calling Lake	Faust	Lindbergh	Rimbey (3)	Wanham
Calmar (2)	Flatbush	Little Smoky	Robb	Waskatenau
Camrose (3)	Foremost	Lloydminster (5)	Rocky Mountain House (7)	Water Valley
Canmore (4)	Forestburg	Lodgepole	Rycroft	Westerose
Cardston (2)	Fort Assiniboine	Lomond	Sangudo	Westlock (2)
Caroline	Fort Chipewyan	Lone Pine	Sexsmith	Wetaskiwin (3)
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Caslan	Fort McMurray (6)	Lougheed	Silver Valley	Wildwood

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## Resident Youth Hunting Licences

Subject to the age limitations and conditions above, a resident 12 to 17 years of age may purchase a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, including a Game Bird Licence, for \$6.25. The holder of a valid Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate who has not yet attained the age of 18 years may also purchase a Youth White-tailed Deer Licence and a Youth Mule Deer Licence, each for \$6.25. These licences are valid during the seasons that do not require one of the Special Licences obtained through a draw. This person may also purchase an Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (available through a draw, see Draws for Special Licences, below) for \$6.00.

## Where Your Money Goes

A portion of the price of each **hunting licence** is a levy established by the Alberta Conservation Association to help finance wildlife rehabilitation programs and the enhancement of other wildlife management programs. Another portion goes to General Revenue and the remainder is a transaction fee that goes to IBM to finance the administration of the licensing system. This system collects valuable information about the use of our wildlife resource. The government uses this data for setting season dates, licence quotas and other regulations. For complete information on fee break down, contact Licensing and Revenue Services at (780) 427-5185.

## Mobility-impaired Hunters

Eligible individuals may obtain a special permit or licence relating to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, discharging a weapon from an OHV and bow and arrow equipment. Contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10) for more information.

## Mandatory Hunter Testing

A person, whose right to hold a recreational hunting licence has been suspended as a result of a conviction, is required to pass a hunter-competency test before obtaining another recreational hunting licence. This test, which differs from the test given to first-time hunters, must be taken after the beginning of the suspension period. Mandatory hunter testing is intended to increase outdoor safety, awareness, skills and efficiency and to develop responsible attitudes in the field. Dates and times for testing are available at Fish and Wildlife Division offices (page 10).

## Draws for Special Licences

When demand for hunting opportunities becomes excessive, season length and bag limits are often insufficient to conserve a game resource or to ensure a quality hunting experience. In such cases, the Fish and Wildlife Division conducts lotteries or draws among eligible applicants for a limited number of special licences. Special licences allow successful applicants to hunt a specific type of game (e.g., antlerless elk) in defined areas during a specified season.

Only residents and, to a lesser extent, non-residents (Canadian) are eligible to apply in these draws. A non-refundable \$3.04 (plus GST) levy is charged for each application or group of applicants (maximum of four) for the same draw. This levy goes to the Alberta Conservation Association for its Buck for Wildlife Program.

Although draws are used for specific wildlife management purposes (e.g., the goal in mule deer draw areas is to develop a more balanced age structure in the herd by controlling the kill of bucks), other benefits

include improved hunter success, increased opportunity to harvest a trophy animal, a more pleasant hunting experience with lower hunter densities, reduced disturbance of landowners, and a better distribution of the harvest.

**Draw Application Deadline Dates** — Hunters interested in special licence hunts for fall 2003 must have applied by June 26. The application period for the 2004 spring grizzly bear and Merriam's turkey hunts is January 6 to January 29, 2004. Refer to the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for more information on how to apply for these draws.

Hunters interested in the draw seasons for 2004 should obtain the *2004 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet and apply during the month of June 2004. The booklet is mailed to draw applicants from the previous two years. For hunters who do not receive a copy in the mail, copies are available at licence issuers and your local Fish and Wildlife Division office.

**Draw Results** — Written notification of your draw results are sent in the mail. However, beginning July 17, you may call **1-900-451-DRAW** (\$0.75 for each minute) to determine your success in the draws. All you need is a touch-tone telephone and your WIN. Results for antelope and goat draws are available August 7.

For information on the Draws for Special Licences, call 1-877-289-0999, toll free.

## Landowner Special Licence

A person who qualifies may be eligible to obtain a special licence after having been unsuccessful in some draws. Availability of Landowner Special Licences may be limited or not available at all for some species in certain WMUs. Those available will be issued to eligible persons on a first-come first-served basis. For details on eligibility and the application process, please consult the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

## Partner Licence

There are 2 types of Partner Licences available:

1. A resident holder of an Antlerless Moose Special Licence has the option of designating one other eligible resident hunter to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence.

2. A resident holder of an Antlered Moose Special Licence has the option of designating one eligible hunter, either a resident or a non-resident (Canadian), to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence. To qualify for a Partner Licence in a particular WMU, the non-resident (Canadian) must have been eligible to apply for the Special Licence in that WMU.

A non-resident (Canadian) holder of an Antlered Moose Special Licence obtained through the draw process has the option of designating one eligible resident hunter to be a partner on the Special Licence, thereby allowing the designated hunter to obtain a Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence.

A designated partner does not need any priority to qualify for a partner licence, does not need to have applied on the moose draw, and the purchase of the partner licence will not affect any existing priority of the partner. To be eligible, the intended partner must qualify legally for a hunting licence and must hold no other moose licence. The primary licensee may designate a partner at any time until the end of the season for which the Special Licence is valid. The designated partner hunts under the authority of the special licence and must be in direct communication (not including the use of any electronic devices) with the primary special licence holder while hunting moose to ensure that both stop hunting when

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one of them kills a moose. The two hunters hunt as partners for a single moose.

The primary licensee must carry the tag issued with the special licence and must tag the animal as soon as the primary licensee or the designated partner kills a moose. The primary licensee may hunt moose without the partner, but not vice versa.

**To Designate a Partner** – The Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence and Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence are available at any licence issuer. The intended partner must provide the licence issuer with the number of the Special Licence held by the primary hunter along with his or her own WIN. The Special Licence number authorizes the licensing system to issue a partner licence that is linked to the Special Licence. The intended partner may then purchase a Wildlife Certificate and the appropriate Partner Licence. If the intended partner is a non-resident, he/she must be accompanied by a licensed Hunter Host while hunting. The Partner Licence is valid for the same WMU and season as the Special Licence. No tag is issued with the Partner Licence.

## Outfitting and Guiding Requirements for Non-residents (Canadian) and Non-resident Aliens

(see Definitions on pages 6 to 7).

There is no requirement for non-resident (Canadian) and non-resident alien game bird hunters to contract their **game bird** hunts through a Bird Game Outfitter-guide. However, those who do choose to hire an outfitter-guide for such a hunt must do so through the holder of a valid Bird Game Outfitter-guide Permit.

In this section, the term "accompany" or "accompanied" means that the persons involved are close enough to each other to easily facilitate verbal communications without the need for electronic devices. **It is acceptable, however, for the hunter to be placed in a stand location by the guide or hunter host, if they remain at that same location to be picked up later the same day.**

Non-resident (Canadian) and Non-resident Alien hunters of **big game, wolf and coyote must be accompanied by a licensed guide or a Hunter Host**. Each of these hunters has two options:

- 1) he or she may contract the holder of a valid Big Game Outfitter-guide Permit, be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide, and hunt under the authority of a licence allocated to an outfitter-guide (for information on outfitter-guides, contact the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society at <http://www.apos.ab.ca>), **OR**
- 2) he or she may be hosted by a Hunter Host (see below) – usually a relative or friend – and hunt according to the following restrictions and conditions:
  - Non-resident Aliens may hunt with a Hunter Host only if they have not done so in the previous two (2) fiscal years (April 1 - March 31).
  - Non-residents (Canadian) and Non-resident Aliens are limited to certain licences as indicated in the Licence Availability sections on pages 20 to 21.
  - Non-resident Aliens hosted by Hunter Hosts may hunt big game only during seasons that do not require one of the special licences, obtained through a draw, indicated by a ■ in the season tables on pages 34 to 47 or listed under Additional Special Licence Draw Hunts on page 48.
  - A Non-resident Alien and his or her intended Hunter Host must apply at a Fish and Wildlife Division office for their licences and make a statutory declaration that he or she understands the terms and conditions of the licences (see Hunter Host Licence on this page).
  - A Non-resident Alien must not hunt bighorn sheep, cougar or trophy antelope while accompanied by a Hunter Host.

### ● Further Restrictions for Non-resident Aliens Who are Not Relatives of the Hunter Host or the Hunter Host's Spouse

- Relatives are defined as father, brother, son, uncle, nephew, grandfather, grandson, son-in-law, brother-in-law (and female equivalents) of the Hunter Host or spouse of the Hunter Host.
- The Non-resident Alien and intended Hunter Host, if not related, must initiate an application at a Fish and Wildlife Division office for their licences, described above, by **August 29** of the licence year, or by the following **February 27** for the spring black bear hunt.
- The Non-resident Alien may apply to hunt only two (2) species of big game.

### A Hunter Host

- Must be an adult resident.
- Must be the holder of a valid Hunter Host Licence (below).
- **may not provide services for gain or reward, or accept remuneration, directly or indirectly, for such services.**
- may host a maximum of two (2) hunters/year, either Non-residents (Canadian), Non-resident Aliens or a combination thereof. If hosting 2 Non-resident Aliens, at least 1 must be a relative.
- may host Non-resident Aliens only if the host has not hosted a Non-resident Alien in the previous two (2) fiscal years (April 1 to March 31).
- must report to the Fish and Wildlife Division by December 31 in the year of harvest, all animals killed by the Non-resident Aliens he or she hosted.
- must accompany the hunter(s) named on his or her Hunter Host Licence while they are hunting big game under the authority of the Hunter Host Licence.

### Hunter Host Licence

A resident who wishes to be a Hunter Host may purchase a Hunter Host Licence at any private licence issuer. You must have the WIN(s) of the non-resident(s) at the time of purchase. You **must** ensure that the hunters you host are named on your Hunter Host Licence. If you purchase your Hunter Host Licence naming one hunter and you decide to add a second hunter to your licence at a later date, you can do so at no additional charge. Return to a private licence issuer with your licence and have it amended. Once you have purchased your Hunter Host Licence, the hunters may purchase their licences.

A Hunter Host who plans to take a **non-resident alien** hunting must do the following:

1. Go to a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 10) and initiate an application (including statutory declaration). Sign it and have your signature sworn. If the Non-resident Alien is not a relative, you must start this process by August 29 or February 27 as described above.
2. Have the Non-resident Alien sign the application and have his or her signature sworn. (If the Non-resident Alien does not have a WIN, have him fill out a WIN application at the same time.)
3. Take the completed application to a Fish and Wildlife Division office. The application will be reviewed for final approval and keyed into the automated licensing system.
4. When you are notified that your application is approved, go to any private licence issuer and purchase your Hunter Host Licence (see above) and the appropriate Wildlife Certificate and licences.

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## Resident Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 7% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 14) and a Wildlife Certificate which costs \$22.85 (or \$6.25 for a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, page 16). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	31.75	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 3 licences.	A Resident may obtain 4 different licences from this list of 18, but not more than 1 licence from this list for any one species.  (Continued on next page)
Youth White-tailed Deer	6.25		
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	31.75		
Mule Deer	31.75	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 3 licences.	
Youth Mule Deer	6.25		
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	31.75		
Elk	31.75	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 6 licences.	
WMU 300 Elk Special Licence	31.75		
Cypress Hills Elk Special Licence	31.75		
Cypress Hills Elk Archery <sup>1</sup>	31.75		
Antlerless Elk Special Licence	31.75		
Antlered Elk Special Licence	31.75		

Resident Licence Costs and Combinations continued on next page

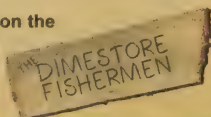
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Licence	Price (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Moose	31.75	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 6 licences.	<i>(Continued from previous page)</i>
Antlered Moose Special Licence	31.75		
Antlerless Moose Special Licence	31.75		
Calf Moose Special Licence	31.75		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	10.00		
Special Antlerless Moose Partner Licence	10.00		
Trophy Sheep	48.59	A Resident who killed a sheep, except a legal non-trophy sheep, in 2002 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Licence in 2003.	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 4 licences.
WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	48.59		
WMU 410 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	48.59		
WMU 437 Trophy Sheep Special Licence	48.59		
Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence	25.08	None	A Resident may obtain 1 of each of these 14 licences.
Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence	16.00		
Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer <sup>2</sup>	16.75		
Strathcona White-tailed Deer	16.00		
Foothills Deer <sup>3</sup>	16.00		
Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence (issued to a youth)	17.00 (6.00)		
Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212 & 248)	8.50		
Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence	35.49		
WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery	16.75		
Black Bear	13.25		
Supplemental Black Bear <sup>4</sup>	13.25		
Grizzly Bear Special Licence	48.59		
Cougar	48.59		
Goat Special Licence	48.59		
Antelope Archery Special Licence	48.59	None	A Resident may obtain only 1 of these 3 licences.
Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence	16.75		
Trophy Antelope Special Licence	48.59		
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	7.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Hunter Host Licence	25.00		
WIN Card Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint	2.00		
Tag Reprint <sup>5</sup>	4.00		
Replacement WIN Card	4.00		

<sup>1</sup> This licence is not valid during the Cypress Hills Elk Special Licence season for rifles.

<sup>2</sup> This licence is only valid in the following WMUs: 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220-228, 258, 260, 310, 312, 322-356, 360, 436-446, 500-510, 521, 523, 527 and 537.

<sup>3</sup> When hunting under the authority of this licence, valid in WMU 212 only, hunters must carry written permission to hunt from a landowner involved.

<sup>4</sup> This licence is only valid in the following WMUs where 2 black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.

<sup>5</sup> A statutory declaration must be completed at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 10).

<sup>6</sup> As of 2002, drawn applicants will not be allowed to reapply in future years (once-in-a-lifetime opportunity).

Special Licences (listed above) are available only through draws which occurred in June of this year (except grizzly bear and Merriam's turkey, see page 16). Please refer to the 2004 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet in June 2004 for information on how to apply in these draws next year.



## Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability

All Non-resident hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require a Big Game Designated Guide or a Hunter Host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 17.

**Non-residents who hunt with a Hunter Host** may obtain White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Moose, Antlered Elk, Black Bear, Supplemental Black Bear, Cougar, and Wolf/Coyote Licences (see table below) from private licence issuers. Some special licences may be obtained through the draw system that will be described in the *2004 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet available in June 2004.

**Non-residents contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter-guide** may obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter-guide. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-residents using the services of an outfitter-guide must be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide.

## Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 7% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 14) and a Wildlife Certificate, which costs \$22.85. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

All **special** licences shown in the following table are available through a Big Game Outfitter-guide. Some are also available through the draw system.

Licence	Price (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
White-tailed Deer	118.23	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	A Non-resident may obtain 4 different licences from this list of 9, but not more than 1 licence for any one species.
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	118.23		
Antlered Mule Deer	118.23	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	118.23		
Antlered Elk	130.97	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 2 licences.	
Antlered Elk Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	130.97		
Antlered Moose	130.97	A Non-resident may obtain only 1 of these 3 licences.	
Antlered Moose Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	130.97		
Special Antlered Moose Partner Licence	42.00		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence <sup>1,2</sup>	309.85	A Non-resident who killed a sheep in 2002 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2003.	A Non-resident may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 3.
Wolf/Coyote	10.00	See page 48 for dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	177.25	None	
Black Bear Licence	60.59	A Non-resident accompanied by a Hunter Host may obtain both of these licences.	A Non-resident may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 2. However, Non-residents purchasing 1 of these two licences may not purchase a Black Bear Special Licence.
Supplemental Black Bear Licence <sup>4</sup>	60.59		
Black Bear Special Licence <sup>5</sup>	60.59	Non-residents must purchase this licence through an outfitter-guide.	Non-residents purchasing this licence may not purchase a Black Bear Licence or a Supplemental Black Bear Licence.
Cougar	130.97	Non-residents hunting with a Hunter Host.	1 licence only from this list of 2.
Cougar Special Licence	130.97	Non-residents must purchase this licence through an outfitter-guide.	
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	14.25	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
WIN Card Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint	2.00		
Tag Reprint <sup>6</sup>	4.00		
Replacement WIN card	4.00		

<sup>1</sup> These licences are available through the draw system or through an outfitter-guide. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (at the top of this page) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 17).

*Footnotes continued on next page*



- 2 Non-resident Trophy Sheep Special Licences are available through Class S Outfitter-guides or through a draw. Only 2 licences are available through a draw, and each hunter successful in the draw must be accompanied by a Hunter Host.
- 3 Non-resident Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available through an outfitter-guide or through a draw. Please refer to the sections that deal with Non-resident (Canadian) Licence Availability (page 20) and Outfitting and Guiding Requirements (page 17).
- 4 This licence is valid only in the following WMUs where 2 black bear licences may be used: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841. Please see page 33 for more information.
- 5 These licences are valid for 2 black bears if the Outfitter-Guide's allocation is valid for a WMU where the Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid (i.e., 2-bear areas).
- 6 A Statutory declaration must be completed at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 10).

## Non-resident Alien Licence Availability

All Non-resident Alien hunters of big game, wolf or coyote require either a Big Game Designated Guide **or** a Hunter Host. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 17.

**Non-resident Aliens who hunt with a Hunter Host** may obtain Antlered White-tailed Deer, Antlered Mule Deer, Antlered Moose, Antlered Elk, Black Bear Special Licences and Wolf/Coyote Licences (see table below) from licence issuers. See Outfitting and Guiding Requirements on page 17 for a summary of the circumstances under which these licences may be used and the limitations that apply.

**Non-resident Aliens contracting a hunt with a Big Game Outfitter-guide** must obtain Special Licences by using an allocation, available from their outfitter-guide. Wolf/Coyote licences can be purchased without an allocation. Non-resident Aliens using the services of an outfitter-guide must be guided by a Big Game Designated Guide.

## Non-resident Alien Licence Costs and Combinations

NOTE: The 7% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 14) and a Wildlife Certificate, which costs \$22.85. Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit (not required for hunting with a cross-bow).

Licence	Price (\$)	Restrictions Applying to the Species	Maximum Licences Allowed Per Hunter
Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence	182.68 <sup>1</sup>	None	A Non-resident Alien may obtain 1 of each licence from this list of 9.
Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence	182.68 <sup>1</sup>		
Antlered Elk Special Licence	247.77 <sup>1</sup>		
Antlered Moose Special Licence	247.77 <sup>1</sup>		
Black Bear Special Licence <sup>2</sup>	75.89 <sup>1</sup>		
Trophy Sheep Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	309.85 <sup>1</sup>	A Non-resident Alien who killed a sheep in 2002 may not purchase a Trophy Sheep Special Licence in 2003.	
Cougar Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	247.77 <sup>1</sup>	None	
Wolf/Coyote Licence	10.00 <sup>1</sup>	See page 48 for wolf and coyote season dates and restrictions.	
Trophy Antelope Special Licence <sup>3</sup>	222.77 <sup>1</sup>	None	
Bowhunting Permit (not required for cross-bows)	21.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
WIN Card Renewal	8.00		
Licence Reprint	2.00		
Tag Reprint <sup>4</sup>	4.00		

<sup>1</sup> If purchased through an outfitter-guide, or the Alberta Professional Outfitter Society, an additional service fee is charged.

<sup>2</sup> This licence is valid for 2 black bears where the Resident and Non-resident (Canadian) Supplemental Black Bear Licences are valid (2-bear areas).

*Footnotes continued on next page*



<sup>3</sup> Trophy Sheep, Cougar and Trophy Antelope Special Licences are available to Non-resident Aliens only through an outfitter-guide.

<sup>4</sup> A statutory declaration must be completed at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 10).

## GAME BIRD LICENCES



Fish & Wildlife

In addition to a WIN and a Wildlife Certificate, game bird hunters require:

- a Game Bird Licence to hunt grouse, partridge and ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence to hunt pheasant;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt waterfowl;
- a Merriam's Turkey Special Licence and a Game Bird Licence to hunt Merriam's turkey.

(NOTE: Merriam's Turkey Special Licences are available only through a draw. See page 50 for more information.)

NOTE: The 7% federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not included in the costs listed below.

Prior to purchasing any licence, each hunter must possess a valid WIN (see page 14) and a Wildlife Certificate. The Wildlife Certificate costs \$22.85 (or \$6.25 for a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate, page 16). Hunters wishing to hunt with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) must also purchase a Bowhunting Permit.

### Licence Costs

Game Bird Licence	Price (\$)		
	Resident	Non-resident (Canadian)	Non-resident Alien
Game Bird	8.46	29.51	105.89
3-Day Game Bird	Not Applicable	20.25	75.58
Pheasant	12.15	18.18	18.18
Merriam's Turkey Special Licence <sup>1</sup>	23.51	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Bowhunting Permit	7.00	14.25	21.00
WIN Card Renewal	8.00	8.00	8.00
Licence Reprint	2.00	2.00	2.00
Tag Reprint <sup>2</sup>	4.00	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit <sup>3</sup>	17.00	17.00	17.00

<sup>1</sup> Available only through a draw, page 50.

<sup>2</sup> A statutory declaration must be completed at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 10).

<sup>3</sup> Available at Post Offices and certain private licence issuers. See *Hunting in Alberta* web site (page 10).

## FEDERAL FIREARMS LEGISLATION

All hunters should be aware of federal laws surrounding the acquisition, possession, transportation and use of weapons and ammunition. For further information contact your local police service or the Canadian Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000 or visit the Centre's website at <http://www.cfc.gc.ca/>.

### EXPORTING

#### Alberta Export Permit

All big game, game birds, and furbearing animals (except tanned skins) require a provincial export permit (\$20.00) when they are to be conveyed beyond the borders of Alberta, except under the following conditions:

1. Hunters, who lawfully harvest game birds, coyotes, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose, pronghorn antelope or black bear\* under the authority of a hunting licence, may export those species without an Alberta export permit if
  - in the case of game birds, the bird has been processed as a mounted specimen, or
  - the export occurs within 30 days of the date the animal was killed or within 5 days of the close of the season, whichever occurs first, and
  - the shipment is accompanied by the hunter who killed the animal, and
  - the appropriate licence is carried by the hunter who killed the animal being exported.

\* Alberta prohibits the export of gall bladder and paws of black bear. You may export red meat, hide with claws attached, head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. See CITES Export Permit at top of next page.

2. Coyote that have been lawfully hunted by residents do not require a provincial export permit.

**Note:** United States migratory bird hunting regulations state that it is unlawful for a person to import into the United States migratory game birds belonging to another person. Evidence of sex and species must remain attached to the bird until the final U.S. destination is reached.

For further information on the export of wildlife contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10).

*continued on page 23*



### CITES Export Permit

Persons exporting cougar, grizzly bear or wolf to points outside Canada must obtain a federal export permit issued in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). In addition, provincial export permits must be obtained for exporting these species, except for tanned wolf skin. All black bear require CITES export permits, except for those exported by United States hunters as noted on this page. Black bears do not require the provincial export permit if they are exported as described in the Alberta Export Permit section.

**U.S. Black Bear Hunters** – A CITES export permit is no longer required for U.S. hunters to take their black bear hunting trophy in a fresh, frozen or salted condition, back home at the conclusion of their hunt. The trophy must be part of the accompanying baggage of the hunter who killed the animal. This exemption does not apply to taxidermized trophies. All provincial export requirements still apply (see Alberta Export Permit section) and the trophy and documentation must be presented to Customs at the border when

the hunters exit. Only the following parts of black bear may be exported: red meat, the hide with claws still attached, the head or skull with teeth attached, but no other parts. Alberta prohibits the export of the gall bladder or paws of black bear. Note that the CITES permit exemption for fresh black bear trophies applies only to U.S. hunters returning home and not to other hunters. An individual must not sell or dispose of the black bear within 90 days after the date on which the CITES exemption is claimed.

**Other circumstances for Black Bear:** Claws of black bear may not be exported from Alberta if they are separated from the whole skin. Partial skins of black bear that are processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved), black bear skulls with teeth attached (when not being shipped with a hunter returning home as described above) or taxidermized black bear skins may still be exported but only under a provincial export permit with a CITES permit. An unprocessed black bear skin that is not part of a returning hunter's baggage may still be shipped but requires both provincial and CITES export permits.

## SALE OF WILDLIFE

The selling, buying, bartering, soliciting or trading in wildlife or wildlife parts, or offering to do so, is regulated under the *Wildlife Act* and Regulations. Many transactions are strictly prohibited, while others are regulated. For further information, contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10).

## FOUND DEAD WILDLIFE

When driving or walking, hunters often find dead wildlife that they would like to keep. In most cases it is unlawful to possess such wildlife or parts of wildlife without first obtaining a permit. To apply for such a permit, contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10).

## HUNTING PRIVILEGES ON OCCUPIED, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LAND

### Access to Public and Private Lands

Except under authority of a Game Bird Shooting Ground Licence, it is unlawful to directly or indirectly buy or sell, trade or barter, or offer to buy or sell access to any land for the purpose of hunting any big game, furbearing animals or game birds.

Hunting on occupied lands without permission is a problem in Alberta. It generates anti-hunting sentiment among landowners and results in the prosecution of more than 200 hunters each year. **Hunters should have permission to access any private land, regardless of whether signs are posted or the land is occupied.** They should leave gates as they find them, avoid damaging facilities or property, avoid disturbing livestock and establish friendly relations with landholders.

Although there is a moral obligation to pursue wounded game and a legal requirement to ensure game is retrieved and not wasted or abandoned, these obligations do not over-ride the legal requirement to get permission to enter private land.

### Recreational Access to Public Lands Leased for Grazing

At the time of printing of this guide, the Alberta Government had passed new legislation clarifying the rules for recreational access on public lands leased for grazing. It is anticipated that these rules will come into force in 2003.

The new legislation generally applies to about five million acres of agricultural land leased for grazing. Only a very small amount of this land – less than one percent – is located in the forested area of the foothills along the eastern slopes. Forest grazing allotments are not affected by this legislation.

The new rules generally provide "reasonable access" to recreational users on foot. You are required to contact the leaseholder prior to your visit. The purpose of the contact is to ensure the leaseholder has the basic information about your visit, or can provide reasons why access may be limited. More details about the rules and contact information will be available at <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/land/recaccess> or call 1-866-279-0023.



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## Wildlife Act

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter onto such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

The *Wildlife Act* defines "occupied lands" as follows:

- privately owned lands under cultivation or enclosed by a fence of any kind and not exceeding one section in area on which the owner or occupant actually resides, and
- any other privately owned land that is within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the section referred to in clause (a) and that is owned or leased by the same owner or occupant.

The occupied lands described in the above legislation do not need to be posted with signs to receive protection under Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act*.

The black area in the map (right) shows an example of nine square miles of land that could contain land falling within the definition of "occupied lands."

## Petty Trespass Act

The *Petty Trespass Act* specifies that where one has been notified not to trespass (by word of mouth or in writing or by posters or sign boards), it is unlawful to trespass on

- privately owned land,
  - Crown land subject to any disposition granted under the *Public Lands Act*, other than for recreation purposes.
- \* Upon proclamation of the *Agricultural Dispositions Statutes Amendment Act, 2003*.

31	32	33	34	35	36
30	29	28	27	26	25
19	20	21	22	23	24
18	17	16	15	14	13
7	8	9	10	11	12
6	5	4	3	2	1

■ Potentially Occupied Lands  
X Residence

## Federal Criminal Code

The *Criminal Code* (Section 41) provides that a person in peaceable possession of real property can require a trespasser to vacate the property.

## Access for Guiding

A Hunter Host, Big Game Designated Guide or Bird Game Designated Guide, when guiding on any privately held land, requires permission authorizing access from the landholder for conducting those guiding services on that land. Such a guide or host is required to carry on his person the landholder's name, address (or legal land location of landholder's residence) and telephone number.

## Access for Control of Livestock Predation Black Bear and Coyote\*

Any person who is (a) the owner or occupant of privately owned land, or (b) authorized to keep livestock on public land, or (c) a resident authorized by a person described in (a) or a resident authorized in writing by a person described in (b) may, without a licence, hunt (but not trap) black bear or coyote on such lands, at all times of the year.

## Timber Wolf\*

Any person who is (a) the owner or occupant of privately owned land, or (b) authorized to keep livestock on public land, or (c) a resident authorized by a person described in (a) or a resident authorized in writing by a person described in (b) may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) timber wolf on such lands, and on any lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the above lands, provided he or she also has the right of access to these latter lands.

- \* It is not legally necessary to salvage pelts of furbearing animals (includes coyote and wolf) taken in accordance with regulations authorizing control of problem wildlife. Refer to page 48 for information about seasons for coyote and wolf.

## RESTRICTED AREAS

Alberta has a variety of restricted areas. Please read the following sections carefully to determine how the various designations affect hunting opportunities.

## ALL HUNTING

### Wildlife Sanctuaries

Sanctuaries are intended to provide secure habitat for wildlife and thus allow populations to either increase or remain at desired levels. They include areas of high quality habitat, often where populations of some wildlife species have been significantly lowered or dispersed because of disturbance at some time in the past. Sanctuary status allows these areas to realize their potential to support wildlife and to act as core areas of production for animals that will disperse to surrounding areas. It also increases the opportunities for Albertans to view wildlife.

NOTE: Privately owned lands within wildlife sanctuaries are excluded from the sanctuaries.

The following regulations apply to the specific sanctuaries listed in Parts 1 and 2 below:

### Part 1 – Sheep River Wildlife Sanctuary

It is unlawful to hunt wildlife or discharge or possess a weapon within Sheep River (WMU 406) Wildlife Sanctuary. However, a person may, while crossing this sanctuary, possess a weapon that (a) is completely enclosed in a case or other suitable covering or has been taken apart, and (b) in the case of a firearm, does not contain ammunition.

### Part 2 – Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries

It is unlawful to hunt within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the road in a designated road corridor wildlife sanctuary (a corridor 730 m or 800 yards wide). No person shall possess a weapon in these sanctuaries unless:

- while crossing the sanctuary, the weapon is in a condition described in Part 1 above, or
- while crossing the sanctuary on horseback or on foot, the weapon, if it is a firearm, does not contain ammunition and the person is travelling in a direct route to leave the road corridor wildlife sanctuary.

There are 11 road corridor wildlife sanctuaries, shown in green on the enclosed WMU map. Eight are located in the Mountain and Foothills regions (no. 9 has been eliminated) and three in the Boreal Region. Descriptions of the Road Corridor Wildlife Sanctuaries are as follows:

#### Mountain and Foothills

- Highwood – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
  - Highway 40 between the southern boundary of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Secondary Road 541,
  - Secondary Road 541 between Highway 40 and the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve;
- Harold Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of the road locally known as the Harold Creek Road between the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve and Secondary Road 734;
- Eagle Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that

continued on page 26



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- portion of the road locally known as the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Road between Eagle Creek and the ranch headquarters buildings;
4. Elk Creek – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Secondary Road 734 between Idlewilde Creek and the road locally known as the Peppers Lake Road;
  5. Ram Falls – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Secondary Road 734 between the Ram River and the road locally known as the Onion Lake Road;
  6. North Ram – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Secondary Road 734 that is in Township 38, Range 15, West of the 5th Meridian and north of the North Ram River;
  7. Kootenay Plains – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of that portion of Highway 11 between Allstones Creek and the eastern boundary of Banff National Park;
  8. Highway 40/Little Smoky/Simonette – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
    - (a) that portion of Highway 40 between the Berland River and the Muskeg River,
    - (b) the road locally known as the Huckleberry Tower Road,
    - (c) that portion of Secondary Road 734 between Highway 40 and its junction with the Grande Cache Forest Products Haul Road locally known as the Smoky Mainline,
    - (d) the Grande Cache Forest Products Haul Road locally known as the Smoky Mainline in Townships 57 and 58, Ranges 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, West of the 6th Meridian,
    - (e) that portion of the Grande Cache Forest Products Haul Road locally known as the Ghost Mainline in Townships 57, 58, 59 and 60, Ranges 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, West of the 6th Meridian,
    - (f) the Grande Cache Forest Products Haul Road locally known as the Simonette Mainline in Townships 58 and 59, Ranges 3 and 4, West of the 6th Meridian;

### Boreal Region

9. Whitemud Hills – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Whitemud Hills Haul Road from Highway 35 to the western boundary of Section 14, Township 85, Range 2, West of the 6th Meridian;
10. Sulphur Lake – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Sulphur Lake Haul Road from the southeast corner of Township 88, Range 1, West of the 6th Meridian to its junction with the road locally known as the Canfor East Road in Township 89, Range 3, West of the 6th Meridian;
11. Peace River Pulp Mill/Sun Valley Ferry – within 365 m (400 yards) of the centre-line of
  - (a) the Peace River Pulp Road between Secondary Road 686 and the Peace River Pulp Mill in Township 85, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian,
  - (b) the Peace River Pulp Road locally known as the Peace River Pulp Resource Road between Secondary Road 686 and the Sun Valley Ferry crossing of the Peace River in Township 90, Range 21, West of the 5th Meridian,
  - (c) that portion of Secondary Road 686 between its junctions with roads referred to in (a) and (b).

### Seasonal Sanctuaries

No person shall approach within 800 metres (0.5 mile) of any of the following seasonal sanctuaries between April 15 and September 15.

1. The island known as Pelican Island in Newell Lake in Township 17, Range 15, W4M;
2. The unnamed island in Namur Lake in Sections 35 and 36, Township 97, Range 17, W4M;
3. The unnamed islands in Wadlin Lake in Township 100, Range 10 and 11, W5M;
4. The unnamed island in Beaverhill Lake in Section 5, Township 52, Range 17, W4M;
5. The unnamed island in the unnamed lake in Section 8, 9, 16 and 17, Township 95, Range 17, W4M;
6. The unnamed island in Scope Reservoir in LSD 2 and 3, Section 10, Township 13, Range 14, W4M;

No person shall enter the following seasonal sanctuaries between April 15 and September 15:

1. That portion of the unnamed island in Lower Therien Lake in the NW Quarter of Section 14, Township 57, Range 10, W4M;
2. That portion of Lower Therien Lake in Section 2, 3, 10 and 11, Township 57, Range 10, W4M;
3. The unnamed islands in the Slave River in the SW Quarter of Section 30, Township 126, Range 10, W4M, and the SE Quarter of Section 25, Township 126, Range 11, W4M;
4. The island known as Bird Island in Buffalo Lake in Section 30, Township 40, Range 20, W4M;
5. The unnamed island in Joseph Lake in Section 12, Township 50, Range 22, W4M.

### Métis Settlements

In general, only a member of a Métis Settlement Association, formed under the *Métis Settlements Act*, may hunt or trap wildlife on a Métis Settlement. Hunting by non-members may be authorized under settlement by-laws.

### Natural Areas

Natural areas are special parcels of public land that are formally set aside by the Alberta Government to protect sensitive and scenic land from disturbance. Natural areas fall in the middle of the range of conservation lands in Alberta, between strictly protected lands – such as ecological reserves and provincial parks – and lands intensively developed for recreation. The main objective of natural areas management is to maintain the natural features and characteristics of the site. Development of any facilities is kept to a minimum.

Generally, hunting is permitted in most natural areas. However, there are some sites with special management or safety considerations that restrict hunting and access (e.g., Wagner Natural Area, Riverlot 56, and Sherwood Park Natural Area near Edmonton).

For information about a specific site or the Natural Areas Program, contact Alberta Parks and Protected Areas Division at 780-427-3582 (toll free 1-866-427-3582).

### Ecological Reserves

Ecological reserves contain representative or special provincial natural features. The management intent of the reserves is to allow natural processes to occur. The *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act* prohibits hunting within ecological reserves, unless it is required for management purposes to simulate natural events. For example, hunting for big game is allowed in Upper Bob Creek Ecological Reserve, located in WMU 308, but the use of motorized vehicles is not permitted.

Alberta's Ecological Reserves Program is part of a larger international program to preserve natural ecosystems. Ecological reserves protect representative areas in each of the natural regions of Alberta for the conservation of genetic resources, to allow for the appreciation of nature, to preserve our natural heritage, and to establish ecological benchmarks

*continued on page 28*

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For further information on ecological reserves, contact Alberta Parks and Protected Areas Division at 780-427-3582 (toll free 1-866-427-3582).

## Heritage Rangelands

Heritage rangelands are established to preserve and protect natural heritage that is representative of Alberta's grasslands, using grazing to maintain the grassland environment. Seven heritage rangelands have been established in Alberta, with interim designation as natural areas: Black Creek, Twin River, Onefour, Tolman Badlands, Killarney-Reflex Lakes, Ribstone Creek and Beaverhill Lake heritage rangeland natural areas. These sites are open to hunting, according to the provisions in place for hunting in natural areas. Recreational vehicle use is discouraged in all of these sites, with the exception of Beaverhill Lake, where traditional snowmobile use continues to be permitted. For current information about heritage rangeland natural areas, contact the Alberta Parks and Protected Areas Division at 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582).

## Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

Except for Wildland Provincial Parks (see page 29) or for the limited seasons provided in WMUs 624 (Cypress Hills Provincial Park), 936 (Blackfoot Recreation Area) and 841 (Lakeland Recreation Area), it is unlawful to hunt, or to carry or discharge a firearm in a provincial park or recreation area without a firearms carry and discharge permit.

\* Otherwise, all firearms must be unloaded, encased or dismantled. In the case of Blackfoot Recreation Area, hunters will need to obtain a "Firearms Discharge Permit" from the office at Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area prior to engaging in any hunting related activity inside the recreation area.

## Forest Recreation Areas

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within a forest recreation area. It is also unlawful to "dress" a big game animal within a forest recreation area.

## Kananaskis Country

Hunters are reminded that other people use Kananaskis Country trails and camping areas for recreational purposes. Discharging and handling of firearms must be done with care and respect for the safety of others. Access to some areas may be affected when recreational trails and roads for industrial use are temporarily closed. For further information, contact Alberta Community Development in Kananaskis Country.

## National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in national parks, and hunters should be especially careful about their locations when hunting near park boundaries. Firearms are prohibited in national parks except on through highways and in town sites, where they must be unloaded and encased.

## Other Restricted Areas

Except for the special seasons provided in WMUs 728 and 730, hunting is not permitted in the following areas:

- Cold Lake Air Weapons Range (WMU 726),
- Canadian Forces Base Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730),
- Canadian Forces Base Suffield (WMU 732),
- Ghost River Wilderness Area (WMU 734),
- Greene Valley Wildlife Management Unit (WMU 926),
- Siffleur Wilderness Area (WMU 736),
- White Goat Wilderness Area (WMU 738), and
- within 91 m (100 yards) of Highway 1 or Highway 1A in WMU 410.

## BIG GAME HUNTING

The hunting of big game is not permitted in the following areas:

- the Gregg River Resources Coal Mineral Surface Lease in WMU 438, and
- the Cardinal River Coal Mineral Surface Lease in WMU 438, except for non-trophy sheep under the authority of a Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence.

## Saskatoon Mountain Primitive Weapons Area

Only shotguns, muzzleloaders, cross-bows and archery equipment may be used to hunt big game in this area in WMU 357 near Grande Prairie (see enclosed 2003 Wildlife Management Unit Map).

## Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep

It is unlawful to hunt trophy or non-trophy sheep within the following areas:

- 183 m (200 yards) of the Canada Cement rock quarry at Exshaw.
- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 1A between the western boundary of the Stoney Indian Reserve and Canmore,
- 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of Highway 3,
- 1.6 km (1 mi.) of the Sheep River from the eastern boundary of WMU 406 upstream to Dyson Creek,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of the Inland Cement Rock Quarry near Cadomin,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of the intersection of Whitehorse Creek and the main forestry trunk road south of Cadomin,
- 1.6 km (1.0 mi.) of where Highway 16 intersects the eastern boundary of Jasper National Park,
- 3.2 km (2.0 mi.) of the intersection of the Forestry Trunk Road and the South Ram River in Section 18, Township 36, Range 13, West of the Fifth Meridian,

## GAME BIRD HUNTING

### Game Bird Sanctuaries

Hunting game birds and carrying shotguns are prohibited in game bird sanctuaries except with a special permit. Descriptions of these sanctuaries are available from the Queen's Printer in Edmonton or Calgary (page 8). Game bird sanctuaries are located in the following WMUs:

WMU	Sanctuary	WMU	Sanctuary
102	Pakowki Lake	242	Ministik Lake
148	Many Island Lake	242	Miquelon Lake
212	Inglewood	357	Saskatoon Lake
220	Red Deer	503	Lac La Biche
238	Birch Lake	530	Richardson Lake

### Restricted Rivers

Hunting of migratory game birds on the following rivers, over any islands in these rivers or within 91 m (100 yards) of the edge of the waters of these rivers is prohibited until November 1:

1. Bow River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Calgary to Highway 24.
2. Little Smoky River downstream from Highway 43.
3. Peace River.
4. Red Deer River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Red Deer.
5. Smoky River downstream from the mouth of the Wapiti River.
6. South Saskatchewan River downstream from the corporate limits of the City of Medicine Hat.

### Restricted Lakes

Hunting game birds on the following lakes, over any island in these lakes or within 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) of the edge of the waters of these lakes is prohibited until November 1 (Note additional restrictions below for Saskatoon Lake and Ministik Lake). Efforts are made to post signs near these lakes, but not all lakes may be so identified. It is the hunter's responsibility to know the restrictions in the area he or she hunts.

#### Prairie WMUs

160	Little Fish Lake (28-16,17-W4)
162	Berry Creek Reservoir (Carolside Dam) (26,27-12-W4)
162	Blood Indian Creek Reservoir (26-9-W4)
162	Birkenshire Lake (23,24-28-11-W4)
163	Current Lake (33-3-W4)
163	Grassy Island Lake (33-3-W4)
163	Misty Lake (33-3-W4)



163 Sounding Creek Reservoir (30-5,6-W4)  
 164 Fitzgerald Lake (3,4-33-8-W4)  
 164 Kirkpatrick Lake (33,34-9,10-W4)  
 164 Rushmere Lake (33-8-W4)  
 164 Syson Lake (35-12,13-W4)  
 164 Grays Lake (28,32,33-7-W4)  
 164 Wiste Lake (2,11-33-7-W4)  
 164 Unnamed Lake (23 to 27-33-8-W4)  
 164 Unnamed Lake (31,32-33-8-W4)  
 164 Polly Lake (7-31-1-W4)  
 164 Willowbend Reservoir (K-B Lake) (1-31-13-W4)  
 166 Dowling Lake (31,32-14,15-W4)  
 166 Sullivan Lake (34 to 37-14,15-W4)

#### Parkland WMUs

200 Sounding Lake (36,37-3,4-W4)  
 202 Armstrong Lake (42-10-W4)  
 202 Unnamed Lake (8,9-38-10-W4)  
 203 Bellshill (Goose) Lake (42-11-W4)  
 206 Buffalo Lake (40,41-20,21,22-W4\*\*)  
 221 Cygnet Lake (38-1-W5 and 38-28-W4)  
 228 Driedmeat Lake (44,45-19,20-W4)  
 232 Blackburn Lake (10,11-43-10-W4)  
 234 Dolcy Lake (26,35-42-4-W4)

234 Gillespie Lake (39,40-2-W4)  
 234 McIntyre Lake (16,17-44-1-W4)  
 236 Kenilworth Lake (50-4-W4)  
 242 Beaverhill Lake (that portion lying in 50,51-17,18-W4 – approx. southern 1/2 of lake)  
 242 Ministik Lake\* (50-21-W4)  
 242 Oliver Lake (50-21-W4)  
 242 Lake 'A' (50,51-17-W4) adjacent to Beaverhill Lake  
 252 Whitford Lake (56-15,16-W4)

\* *Hunting of game birds in the Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary is prohibited.*

\*\* Hunting of upland game birds only is permitted in 9-40-21-W4.

#### Foothills WMUs

357 Saskatoon Lake\* (including Little Lake) (71, 72-7,8-W6)


\* *Hunting of game birds in Saskatoon Lake Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary is prohibited.*

#### Boreal WMUs

502 Stebbing Lake (63-7-W4)  
 523 Winagami Lake (76,77-18,19-W5)  
 523 Kimiwan Lake (78-19-W5)  
 523 Lac Magloire (79-21-W5)

## VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

The use of vehicles, including off-highway vehicles (OHVs), is controlled by various regulations. Refer to the enclosed 2002 Wildlife Management Unit Map for more information.

 This symbol on the enclosed map indicates that special restrictions apply to all vehicles. Kananaskis Country, in WMUs 404 – 410, has a variety of special vehicle restrictions outlined in the pamphlet *Forest Land Use Zones*. For more information on the special restrictions, contact any office of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development in Kananaskis Country.

#### Forest Land Use Zones (F.L.U.Z.)

**F.L.U.Z.** This symbol on the enclosed map identifies a number of environmentally sensitive areas along the eastern slopes that have been designated as Forest Land Use Zones and have limitations on recreational use and access. For more detailed information on Forest Land Use Zones, contact the Information Centre in Edmonton (see page 10).

#### Wildland Provincial Parks


Hunting is allowed in the Wildland Provincial parks shown on the enclosed WMU map. However, special access restrictions apply to all motorized vehicles. For example, Bob Creek Wildland Provincial Park provides a network of designated trails on which only specific OHVs (quads and snowmobiles) may be operated from May 1 to December 15. For more detailed information, contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 10).

#### Hunting with Motorized Vehicles

It is unlawful to

- discharge a firearm within 46 m (50 yards) of an OHV (see definition on page 6);

- discharge a **weapon** at antelope from within 46 m (50 yards) of a vehicle;
- use motorized travel within Willmore Wilderness Park; and
- carry a weapon (see definition on page 7) on an OHV **between 1 hour before sunrise and the following noon** during an open season for big game on public land in the following WMUs: 102-166, 200-260, 300-360, 400-446, 507, 508, 514, 521-527, 535, 537 and 841.

 This does not apply when the operator is on a direct route to or from a location accessible by vehicles designed for highway travel and his or her isolated campsite, and the weapons and ammunition are carried out of view in separate locked containers.

Also, the restriction does not apply in a WMU when the only big game season open is a spring black bear season.

**NOTE:** Be aware that this restriction applies where grizzly bear seasons are open.

#### Recreation Trails

A number of forested areas throughout Alberta have designated recreation trails. These areas allow a variety of activities including hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Trail users and backcountry travellers should be aware of current land use restrictions. For more information on recreation trails, contact the Information Centre in Edmonton (see page 10).

#### Trappers' Trails

Many trails on Crown lands are created and maintained by trappers. To avoid interference with trapline operations, recreationists are urged to avoid motorized use of trails marked with signs indicating "Active Trapline," especially during trapping seasons of November through February.

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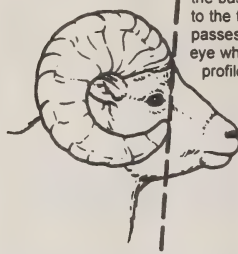


## — Big Game Identification —

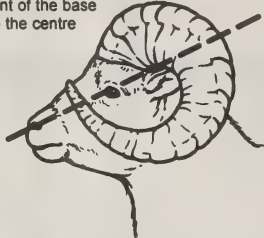
### Be Careful!

Study a ram carefully when determining its trophy status. Be sure to view the ram's head from a horizontal plane and in profile, with the front of the right and left horn bases aligned. Views from below, in front, or any other perspective other than "in profile" will not provide for accurate judgement. Some rams may not be legal even if they are old or have horns severely broomed or with turned up tips.

**Trophy Sheep** — A male bighorn sheep with horns, one of which is of sufficient size that a straight line drawn from the most anterior point of the base of the horn to the tip of the horn passes in front of the eye when viewed in profile.



**Full-Curl Trophy Sheep** — A male bighorn sheep with horns, one of which is of sufficient size that when viewed in profile, its tip extends upward beyond a straight line drawn from the rear-most point of the base of the horn to the centre of the nostril.



lamb



yearling ewe

**Non-trophy Sheep** — A female bighorn sheep or a male bighorn sheep under one year of age.

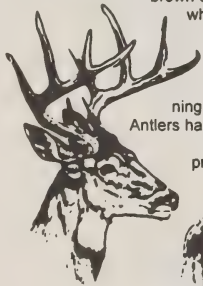


yearling ram  
(illegal)



adult ewe

**White-tailed Deer** — Body color grey to reddish brown, under body white. Tail large and bushy, brown on upper surface and white on lower surface.



Tail often held erect and "flagged" when animal runs. Gait a series of short running dashes and bounds. Antlers have individual lines off main beams. Antlers present on males only.



**Mule Deer** — Body color grey to brownish grey, under body white. Ears prominent; tail compact, rope-like, and black-tipped; rump patch white. Tail held down when animal runs. Gait a series of stiff-legged bounds. Antlers branched and present on males only.

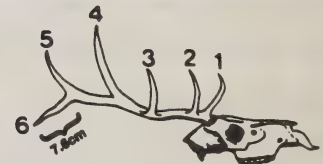


### Antlered

A white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk having an antler exceeding 10.2 cm (4 in.) in length.

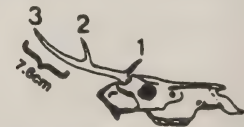
### Antlerless

A white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or elk that is not "antlered" (as defined above).



**Six-point Elk** — A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than five tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

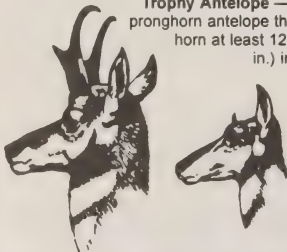
**Note:** The tip of the main beam must be at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) from the base of the last tine counted.



**Three-point Elk** — A male elk bearing an antler that is composed of a main beam from which project not fewer than two tines, each of which is at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

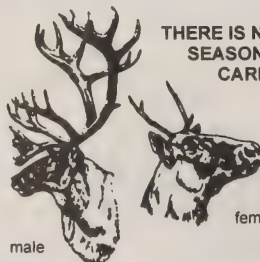
**Note:** The tip of the main beam must be at least 7.6 cm (3 in.) from the base of the last tine counted.

**Trophy Antelope** — A male pronghorn antelope that has a horn at least 12.6 cm (5 in.) in length.



**Non-trophy Antelope** — A female pronghorn antelope or a male pronghorn antelope having horns not more than 7.6 cm (3 in.) in length.

**Woodland Caribou** — Woodland Caribou are classified as endangered animals in Alberta.



THERE IS NO OPEN  
SEASON FOR  
CARIBOU.

male

female



## Moose

**Cow** – large, long nose and face; eyes appear close to top of head; rectangular body proportions; 1.8 m (6 ft.) high at the shoulder; may be found alone.

**Calf** – small, short nose and face; eyes appear more centered between tip of nose and top of head; squarish body proportions; 1.2 m (4 ft.) high at the shoulder; seldom found alone.



## EVIDENCE OF SEX, SPECIES AND CLASS

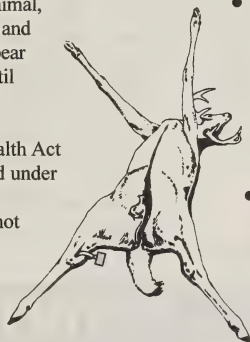
Evidence of sex, species and class must be retained (cannot be surgically or otherwise removed) on the carcass of big game animals, except black bear, until the carcass is delivered to either of the following:

- the usual residence of the person who killed the animal, and the carcass is actually being butchered, cut up and packaged for consumption. In the case of grizzly bear or cougar, the evidence of sex must be retained until the animal has been registered (page 33), or
- a premises\* in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the Public Health Act or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the Meat Inspection Act.

\*Note: The evidence of sex, species or class cannot be removed until it is delivered to one of these premises.

The evidence of sex, species or class that must be retained is as follows:

- **moose, elk, deer, antelope and non-trophy sheep** – attached to the same part of the animal to which the tag is affixed, **one** of the following:
  - testicles, scrotum, or udder, and in the case of deer only, the completely haired tail, or



- the head with horns or antlers attached if the animal has horns or antlers, or
- the head (complete with the skin on it) if the animal has no horns or antlers, and
- in addition,
  - the complete skull plate with horns or antlers intact must be retained with the carcass of the male antelope, male elk or male non-trophy sheep
  - the complete head must be retained with the carcass of a calf moose harvested under authority of a Calf Moose Special Licence.
- **grizzly bear and cougar** – one of the following attached to the skin and visible:
  - in the case of a male, the scrotum
  - in the case of a female, a teat or a portion of a mammary gland.

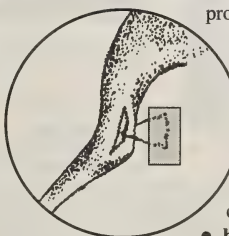
To retain the scrotum or udder, cut to one side of the scrotum or udder when opening the animal for gutting. If you skin your game, the scrotum or udder must remain attached to the meat. If you remove testicles and penis, leave the entire scrotum intact. The meat will not be tainted.

## TAGGING

NOTE: Antlered moose, elk and deer must **NOT** be tagged around the antler base. Please review the following instructions.

**Immediately** after killing a big game animal, the appropriate tag(s) must be affixed and securely locked to the animal as follows:

- **trophy sheep, goat** – one tag through the nostril and, as soon as the skin is removed from the skull, one tag around the lower bone of the eye socket leaving the horns and eye intact.
- **moose, elk, deer, antelope and non-trophy sheep** – through the space between the bone and the tendon of a hind leg directly above the hock and around either the bone or the tendon.
- **bear and cougar** – to the skin.



primary licence holder must, immediately upon arriving at the carcass, tag the animal in the normal fashion (See page 16 for more information).

Tags must remain affixed until, in the case of

- **trophy sheep, goat** – the animal is registered (page 33) and the skin is processed.
- **moose, elk, deer, antelope or non-trophy sheep** – the carcass is delivered to the usual residence of the person who killed the animal or to a premises (i.e., meat plant or butcher shop) in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the Public Health Act or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the Meat Inspection Act **and** the carcass is actually being butchered, cut and packaged for consumption.
- **bear and cougar** – the skin is processed.

## Partner Licence

Upon killing a moose, a partner must immediately inform the primary licence holder (and vice versa – if the primary licence holder kills the moose, he or she must immediately inform the partner) of the killing. The

To tag your kill using the paper tag that comes with your licence, attach the wire loop to the animal as described above for various species and classes. Close and secure the loop by affixing the adhesive tag over the free ends of the wire.



## ALBERTA SPECIAL HUNTING LICENCES FOR ELK AND BIGHORN SHEEP

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Canada in cooperation with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, conducts two raffles for Alberta residents only, to raise funds for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat within the province.

The elk licence is for an extended hunt in the regular season and through December, valid anywhere in Alberta except WMU 410. The bighorn sheep licence offers hunting opportunities through the regular season and November, except in WMU 410 and WMU 437.

Three previous Alberta Special Licences produced bighorn rams scoring 208 3/8, 205 and 190+. You could break these records by purchasing elk and bighorn sheep raffle tickets for \$10/each.

Tickets are available from Elk Foundation Chapters or by contacting:

**Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Canada Headquarters**

P.O. Box 940 / 4316-49 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 1A7

**1-800-563-7633**



## BOWHUNTING

**Note:** The following applies to bowhunting other than with a cross-bow. For information about hunting with cross-bows, see page 57.

Except for the hunting of black bear, coyote or wolf under the circumstances outlined on page 24, a Bowhunting Permit is required by anyone who hunts big game, wolf or coyote with a bow and arrow. Bowhunters with appropriate general or special licences may hunt during the general seasons as well as archery-only seasons. A Bowhunting Permit is required in combination with a big game licence. In some areas of the province, hunters require special licences to hunt certain species of big game – see season tables. A hunter who obtains an Antlered Moose Special Licence, Antlerless Moose Special Licence, Calf Moose Special Licence, Antlered Mule Deer Special Licence, Antlerless Mule Deer Special Licence, Antlered White-tailed Deer Special Licence, Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Licence, Antlered Elk Special Licence or Antlerless Elk Special Licence may, if an early archery season is offered, hunt under the authority of that licence during the archery season but only in the WMU specified on the licence and only for the type and species of animal for which the licence was issued. Bowhunters are reminded that, in some situations, archery-only seasons for some species may be in progress at the same time as rifle seasons for other species in the same WMU.

Persons hunting big game must use an authorized bow and an authorized arrow. An authorized bow is one that is held, drawn and released by muscular power and has a draw weight of not less than 18 kg (40 lb.). This is the number of kilograms (pounds) required to draw an arrow of 71 cm (28 in.) to its head. An authorized arrow is one that is not less than 61 cm (24 in.) in length having a sharp, unbarbed broad-head of not less than 2.2 cm (7/8 in.) in width.

Hunters are asked to remove their tree stands at the end of the hunting seasons unless permission has been granted by the landholder to do otherwise.

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After harvesting **any** of the animals listed below, a hunter is legally required to register the kill at a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10) within the specified time period. Where parts are required to be submitted, they must be submitted at the time the animal is registered in person by the hunter who killed the animal. For species where parts are not required to be submitted, the hunter who killed the animal may not have to be present in person at the time of registration. Contact a Fish and Wildlife office (page 10) for further information.

- All elk (no parts need to be submitted with the registration);
- All goat (the incisor bar must be submitted);
- All grizzly bear (the skin and skull must be submitted complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible);
- All trophy sheep (the complete unaltered skull with horns and eyes intact must be submitted);
- Wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 to 316 or 400 to 426 under any authority (no parts of wolves need to be submitted);
- All cougar (the skin must be submitted complete with the evidence of sex attached and visible).

**Registration Deadlines** – All registrations (except for cougar) must be completed no later than 14 days after the close of the open season during which the animal was killed or 30 days after the date on which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first. Cougars must be registered within two business days following the kill. If an animal is exported, it must first be registered.

Persons registering elk, grizzly bear, goat, trophy sheep, cougar and wolf are required to provide the following information:

- species and sex of the animal,
- date and location of the kill.

The skulls of grizzly bear should be separated from the hides. Skulls will be temporarily retained to allow cleaning, examination, and the extraction of a small tooth for aging before being returned to the hunter.

As part of the registration process, trophy sheep horns will be fitted with a permanent identification marker. Other animals may be marked in another manner or retained for examination.

Compulsory registration provides information about the relative numbers of males, females and young in big game populations. It also provides the dates and locations of the harvest. Age structure and sex ratios provide an indication of population productivity (how many young survive to become adults) and status (increasing, decreasing or stable). The population and harvest data can then be used to determine the harvest goals or quotas for following years. This valuable information, provided by hunters, is essential for managing cougar, elk, grizzly bear, goat, trophy sheep and wolves in Alberta.

## ATTENTION BEAR HUNTERS!

### Black Bear Baiting

Baiting of black bears is permitted in the following WMUs: 320-324, 330-338, 348, 358-360, 500-507, 509, 510, 512-520, 522, 523, 526, 529-536, 539-542, and portions of WMUs 357, 521, 528 and 544 (check with local Fish and Wildlife Division offices, page 10). However, the following restrictions also apply:

1) Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of occupied dwellings. (Owners and occupants of dwellings are exempt from this restriction if they have permission to bait from the owners or occupants of all other dwellings within 1.6 km [1 mi.] of the bait. Other persons may also bait within 1.6 km [1 mi.] of an occupied dwelling if the bait has been authorized in writing by the owners or occupants of that dwelling and all other dwellings within 1.6 km [1 mi.] of the bait.)

2) Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi.) of provincial parks, provincial and forest recreation areas and some industrial sites.

3) Each bait site must have a readily observable sign legibly showing the owner's name, WIN, Big Game Outfitter-guide Permit number, or Big Game Guide Designation Number.

4) Each bait must be posted with surrounding signs to warn other people of its presence.

5) Baiting is restricted to the open season and the preceding two weeks in each specific WMU. Contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10) for legal land descriptions or more information.

Hunters are reminded that Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, *Livestock Diseases Act* and the *Public Health Act* apply to baiting situations. Any livestock dying other than through proper slaughter for human consumption must be disposed of in prescribed ways and may not be used for baiting bears. Containers or wrappings made of paper, cardboard, plastic or other materials should not be left at bait sites. For the safety of others, baits should not be placed near active work sites (e.g., tree planting locations) and all bait sites must be cleaned immediately after the bear season.

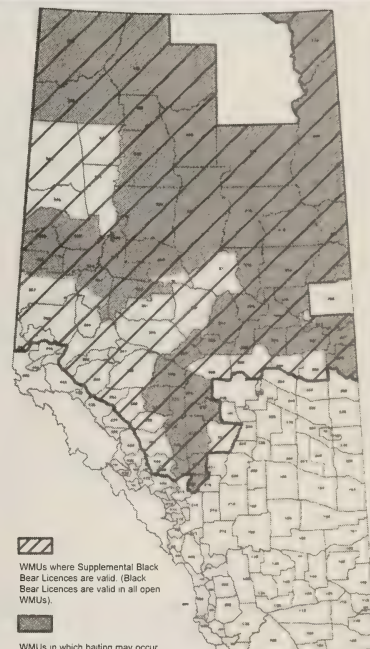
### Supplemental Black Bear Licences

Supplemental Black Bear Licences are available in the following WMUs: 224, 250, 258, 260, 320-360, 429, 445, 500-544 and 841.

## ATTENTION WOLF HUNTERS!

• Setting out bait for the purpose of hunting wolves is lawful **except** during a spring black bear season where the use of bait for hunting black bear is not allowed.

• Where/when there is an open spring black bear season and baiting for black bear is allowed, wolf baits must be signed/posted in the same manner as black bear baits. This requirement to sign/post wolf baits is not in effect in other circumstances where wolf baits are lawfully set.



## ATTENTION BEAR AND COUGAR HUNTERS!

**Trichinosis** – To prevent possible trichinosis, a parasitic infection, bear and cougar meat should be thoroughly cooked before it is consumed by humans or pets.



## Sunday Hunting and Fixed-date Seasons

Please remember that hunting on Sunday is illegal over much of the province. Even where the listed opening or closing of a fixed-season falls on a Sunday, you may not hunt on Sunday unless you are in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).



## Prairie WMUs (100 Series)



Fish & Wildlife

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for details.

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons, and see additional notes at end of this table.

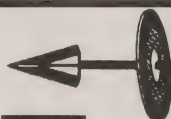
Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer	Antlered	S3 - N5	(Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164
		S3 - O31	N1 - N30	166
	Antlerless	S3 - N5	■ (Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	166
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - N5	■ (Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	102, 104, 106, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	166
	Antlered	O1 - N5	■ (Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	108, 128, 130
	Antlerless	S3 - N5	■ (Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	108, 128, 130
Moose	Antlered* and Antlerless*	■ S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166

*Big Game Seasons in PRAIRIE WMUs continued next page*

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Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless		■ S3 - S23 ■ S24 - O8	102
			■ S3 - S30 ■ O1 - O24 ■ O25 - N16	104

\*The option of the use of a Partner Licence may apply. See page 16 for details on Partner Licences.

**Additional hunting opportunities in the Prairie WMUs:**

- Cypress Hills Elk Special Licence, Antelope Archery Special Licence, Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence and Trophy Antelope Special Licence. Refer to page 48 for season dates or to the **2003 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for further details.
- Cypress Hills Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 1 elk, either antlered or antlerless, with a bow and arrow in WMUs 116, 118 and 119 during the archery season, S3 - O6.

## BIG GAME SEASONS

### Parkland WMUs (200 Series & 728, 730, 936)



Fish & Wildlife

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the **2003 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for details.

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons, and see additional notes at end of this table.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - O31	N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S3 - N30		212, 248
		O17 - O31	N9 - N30	936 <sup>2</sup>
	Antlered	S3 - N5	(Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	210
	Antlerless	S3 - N5	■ (Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	210
Mule Deer <i>continued on next page</i>	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S3 - N5	■ (Thu, Fri, Sat only) N6 - N8 N13 - N15 N20 - N22 N27 - N29	210

*Big Game Seasons in PARKLAND WMUs continued on page 36*



Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Mule Deer <i>continued</i>	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - N30		212, 248
	Antlered	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	250
Moose	Antlered <sup>3</sup> and Antlerless <sup>3</sup>	■ S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
		S3 - N30		212, 248
			■ N27 - D13 <sup>4</sup>	728, 730
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 <sup>2</sup>
	Antlerless <sup>3</sup>		■ (Mon. – Fri. only) O25 - D7 <sup>5</sup>	248 (Strathcona County portion only)
	Antlerless (calf only)		■ N27 - D13 <sup>4</sup>	728, 730
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - N30		212, 248
		■ O17 - O31	■ N1 - N23	936 <sup>2</sup>
	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>6</sup>	S3 - O24	O25 - N30	214
		S3 - O31	N1 - N30	216, 224
	Antlered	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	200, 202, 203, 234
	Antlerless	S3 - O31	■ N1 - D15	200, 202, 203, 224, 234
		S3 - O24	■ O25 - N15 ■ N16 - D15	214
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N23 ■ N24 - D15	216
Black Bear <sup>7</sup>	Fall 2003	S3 - N30		212
			S3 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
	Spring 2004	Ap1 - Ma31		212
			Ap1 - Ma31	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260
Cougar <sup>8</sup>	Not Applicable		D1 - F28	216

<sup>1</sup> The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is valid in WMUs 204, 206, 208, 214, 216, 220–228, 258 and 260.

<sup>2</sup> Hunters (including bowhunters) require a “Firearms Discharge Permit” to hunt in WMU 936. Self-registration permits are available on a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week basis at the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Recreation Area office, at the west entrance of WMU 936. Vehicle access is permitted to staging areas only. Horse use is permitted on designated equestrian trails. All other trails are accessible only by foot traffic. For further information, telephone 780-922-3293.

<sup>3</sup> The option of the use of a Partner Licence may apply. See page 16 for details on Partner Licences.

<sup>4</sup> From N27 - N29, this season is open only for primitive weapons.

<sup>5</sup> This season is open only for archery, cross-bows, muzzleloader or shotgun.

*Big Game Seasons in Parkland WMUs continued on next page*

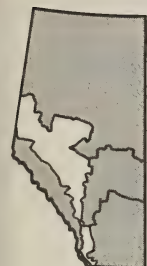


- 6 See page 30 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.
- 7 The Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid in WMU 224, 250, 258 and 260.
- 8 The cougar season in specific WMUs will close prior to the closing date on this table if either the total quota or the female quota for those WMUs is reached. Before hunting cougars in any WMU, hunters must ensure that the season in that WMU remains open, by calling the toll free cougar hotline (1-800-661-3729) and listening to the message listing current closures. The hotline is updated regularly, and, by calling after 4:30 pm, hunters can confirm which units will be open the next day.

**Additional hunting opportunities in the Parkland WMUs:**

- Antlerless Deer (WMUs 212 & 248) Licence. Holders of this licence may kill two antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMUs 212 and 248 during the archery-only season, S3 – N30.
- Foothills Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 2 antlerless deer, either white-tailed deer or mule deer, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, shotgun, or muzzleloader in WMU 212 on the following dates: D1 – D4; D8 – D11. When hunting, they must carry written permission from the landowner involved.
- WMU 212 Antlerless Elk Archery Licence. Holders of this licence may kill 1 antlerless elk with a bow and arrow (but not a cross-bow) in WMU 212 during the archery only season, S3 – N30.
- Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence. Refer to page 48 for season dates or the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.
- Strathcona White-tailed Deer Licence. Holders of this licence may kill two white-tailed deer, only 1 of which may be antlered, with a bow and arrow, cross-bow, muzzleloader or shotgun in that portion of WMU 248 within the Counties of Strathcona and Leduc only from Mondays to Fridays between the following dates: O25 – D7. Information about this hunt is available from the Fish and Wildlife Division district office in Edmonton and from Strathcona County Hall, 2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park.

## BIG GAME SEASONS



### Foothills WMUs (300 Series)



Fish & Wildlife

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for details.

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons, and see additional notes at end of this table.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - O31	N1 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		A25 - S23	S24 - N30	316
		S3 - O31	N1 - N30	318, 320
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 360
		A25 - S16	N1 - N7	357, 358, 359
		A25 - S23	N1 - N30	316
		S3 - O31	N1 - N7	318, 320

*Big Game Seasons in FOOTHILLS WMUs continued on page 39*





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Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 348
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	357, 358, 359, 360
		A25 - S23	S24 - N30	316
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	338
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	326, 346, 357, 358, 359, 360
Moose	Antlered <sup>2</sup> and Antlerless <sup>2</sup>	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	316, 337, 338
		■ S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	310, 312, 314, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336
	Antlered <sup>2</sup>	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		■ S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	348
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	326, 328, 330
	Antlerless <sup>2</sup>	■ A25 - S23	■ N1 - N30	357
	Antlerless (calf only)	A25 - S23	■ S24 - N30	353, 354, 359
Elk	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>3</sup>	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		S3 - O24	O25 - N30	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
		S3 - O31	N1 - N30	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D15	340, 342, 346, 357, 358, 359, 360
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	330, 353, 354, 355, 356
		S3 - O24	■ O25 - D15	302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - D15	334, 336, 337, 338, 348
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N23 ■ N24 - D15	318, 320, 322, 324, 332
		S3 - O24	■ O25 - N15 ■ N16 - D15	312, 314
Trophy Sheep <sup>4</sup>	Resident		A25 - O31	326, 328 <sup>5</sup>
			S3 - O31	302 <sup>5</sup> , 303, 306, 308
Black Bear <sup>6,7</sup>	Fall 2003	A25 - S2	S3 - N30	351, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	326, 328, 330, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 352
		S3 - S23	S24 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
			S3 - N30	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348
	Spring 2004		Ap1 - Ma15	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314
			Ap1 - Ma31	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 352
			Ap17 - Ju15	351, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
Cougar <sup>8</sup>	Not Applicable		D1 - F28	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 352





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	DATE	Calgary		Coronation		Edmonton		Ft. McMurray		High L
		Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise
M D T	Sept. 1	6:49	8:23	6:37	8:14	6:43	8:25	6:28	8:23	6:47
	Sept. 5	6:56	8:14	6:44	8:05	6:50	8:15	6:36	8:12	6:56
	Sept. 10	7:03	8:03	6:52	7:54	6:58	8:03	6:46	7:59	7:07
	Sept. 15	7:11	7:52	7:00	7:42	7:07	7:51	6:56	7:45	7:18
	Sept. 20	7:19	7:40	7:08	7:30	7:16	7:39	7:06	7:32	7:28
	Sept. 25	7:27	7:29	7:16	7:18	7:25	7:26	7:16	7:18	7:39
	Sept. 30	7:35	7:18	7:25	7:07	7:33	7:14	7:27	7:04	7:50
	Oct. 1	7:36	7:15	7:26	7:04	7:35	7:12	7:29	7:02	7:53
	Oct. 5	7:43	7:06	7:33	6:55	7:42	7:02	7:37	6:51	8:02
	Oct. 10	7:51	6:55	7:42	6:44	7:51	6:50	7:47	6:38	8:13
M S T	Oct. 15	7:59	6:45	7:50	6:33	8:01	6:39	7:58	6:25	8:24
	Oct. 20	8:08	6:34	7:59	6:22	8:10	6:27	8:08	6:12	8:36
	Oct. 25	8:16	6:24	8:08	6:12	8:19	6:16	8:19	6:00	8:48
	Oct. 30	7:25	5:15	7:17	5:02	7:29	5:06	7:30	4:48	7:59
	Nov. 1	7:28	5:11	7:21	4:58	7:33	5:02	7:35	4:43	8:04
	Nov. 5	7:35	5:04	7:28	4:51	7:40	4:54	7:43	4:35	8:14
	Nov. 10	7:44	4:56	7:37	4:42	7:50	4:45	7:54	4:24	8:26
	Nov. 15	7:52	4:49	7:46	4:35	7:59	4:37	8:05	4:15	8:37
	Nov. 20	8:01	4:43	7:54	4:28	8:08	4:30	8:16	4:06	8:49
	Nov. 25	8:09	4:38	8:02	4:23	8:17	4:24	8:26	3:59	9:00
M S T	Nov. 30	8:16	4:34	8:10	4:18	8:25	4:19	8:35	3:53	9:10
	Dec. 1	8:17	4:33	8:11	4:18	8:27	4:19	8:37	3:52	9:12
	Dec. 5	8:23	4:31	8:17	4:15	8:32	4:16	8:43	3:49	9:19
	Dec. 10	8:28	4:29	8:23	4:14	8:39	4:14	8:50	3:46	9:26
	Dec. 15	8:33	4:29	8:28	4:14	8:44	4:14	8:56	3:45	9:32
	Dec. 20	8:37	4:31	8:31	4:15	8:47	4:15	9:00	3:46	9:36
	Dec. 25	8:39	4:33	8:34	4:18	8:50	4:18	9:02	3:49	9:39
	Dec. 30	8:40	4:37	8:34	4:22	8:50	4:22	9:02	3:54	9:39
	Jan. 1	8:40	4:39	8:34	4:24	8:50	4:24	9:02	3:56	9:38
	Jan. 5	8:39	4:44	8:33	4:28	8:49	4:29	9:00	4:01	9:36
M S T	Jan. 10	8:37	4:50	8:31	4:35	8:47	4:36	8:57	4:09	9:32
	Jan. 15	8:34	4:57	8:28	4:42	8:42	4:44	8:51	4:18	9:26
	Jan. 20	8:29	5:05	8:23	4:51	8:37	4:52	8:45	4:28	9:18
	Jan. 25	8:23	5:14	8:17	4:59	8:31	5:01	8:37	4:38	9:10
	Jan. 30	8:17	5:22	8:10	5:08	8:23	5:11	8:28	4:49	9:00
	Feb. 1	8:14	5:26	8:06	5:12	8:20	5:15	8:24	4:54	8:55
	Feb. 5	8:07	5:33	8:00	5:19	8:13	5:23	8:16	5:03	8:47
	Feb. 10	7:59	5:42	7:51	5:29	8:03	5:33	8:05	5:14	8:35
	Feb. 15	7:50	5:51	7:42	5:38	7:53	5:42	7:54	5:25	8:22
	Feb. 20	7:40	6:00	7:32	5:47	7:43	5:52	7:42	5:37	8:09
	Feb. 25	7:30	6:09	7:21	5:57	7:32	6:02	7:29	5:48	7:56

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## SUNSET TABLE

Hinton		Lac La Biche		Lethbridge		Peace River		Red Deer		Whitcoutr	
Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
5:59	8:41	6:34	8:21	6:46	8:16	6:53	8:46	6:46	8:24	6:50	8:35
7:06	8:32	6:42	8:11	6:52	8:08	7:00	8:35	6:53	8:15	6:58	8:25
7:15	8:20	6:51	7:59	7:00	7:57	7:10	8:22	7:01	8:03	7:06	8:13
7:24	8:07	7:00	7:46	7:07	7:46	7:20	8:08	7:09	7:51	7:15	8:00
7:32	7:55	7:09	7:33	7:14	7:35	7:30	7:55	7:18	7:40	7:24	7:48
7:41	7:43	7:19	7:20	7:22	7:24	7:40	7:42	7:26	7:28	7:33	7:35
7:50	7:31	7:28	7:08	7:29	7:13	7:50	7:28	7:34	7:16	7:43	7:23
7:52	7:28	7:30	7:05	7:31	7:11	7:52	7:26	7:36	7:14	7:44	7:20
7:59	7:19	7:37	6:55	7:37	7:02	8:00	7:15	7:43	7:04	7:52	7:10
8:08	7:07	7:47	6:43	7:45	6:52	8:10	7:02	7:51	6:53	8:01	6:58
8:17	6:55	7:57	6:31	7:52	6:42	8:20	6:49	8:00	6:42	8:10	6:46
8:26	6:44	8:06	6:19	8:00	6:32	8:31	6:37	8:09	6:31	8:20	6:35
8:36	6:33	8:16	6:07	8:08	6:22	8:42	6:25	8:18	6:21	8:30	6:24
7:45	5:23	7:26	4:56	7:17	5:13	7:52	5:13	7:27	5:11	7:39	5:13
7:49	5:19	7:30	4:52	7:20	5:10	7:57	5:09	7:30	5:07	7:43	5:09
7:56	5:11	7:39	4:44	7:26	5:03	8:05	5:00	7:38	5:00	7:51	5:01
8:06	5:02	7:49	4:35	7:35	4:55	8:16	4:50	7:47	4:51	8:01	4:52
8:15	4:54	7:58	4:26	7:43	4:49	8:26	4:41	7:56	4:44	8:11	4:44
8:24	4:47	8:08	4:19	7:51	4:43	8:37	4:32	8:04	4:37	8:20	4:36
8:33	4:41	8:17	4:12	7:58	4:38	8:46	4:25	8:13	4:31	8:29	4:30
8:41	4:37	8:26	4:07	8:05	4:34	8:55	4:20	8:20	4:27	8:37	4:25
8:42	4:36	8:27	4:06	8:06	4:34	8:57	4:19	8:22	4:26	8:39	4:24
8:48	4:33	8:33	4:03	8:11	4:32	9:03	4:16	8:27	4:24	8:45	4:22
8:54	4:31	8:40	4:01	8:17	4:31	9:10	4:13	8:33	4:22	8:51	4:20
9:03	4:31	8:45	4:01	8:22	4:31	9:16	4:12	8:38	4:22	8:56	4:19
9:03	4:32	8:49	4:02	8:25	4:32	9:20	4:13	8:42	4:23	9:00	4:20
9:05	4:35	8:51	4:04	8:27	4:35	9:22	4:16	8:44	4:26	9:02	4:23
9:06	4:39	8:52	4:09	8:28	4:39	9:22	4:20	8:45	4:30	9:03	4:27
9:06	4:41	8:51	4:11	8:28	4:41	9:22	4:23	8:45	4:32	9:03	4:29
9:05	4:46	8:50	4:16	8:28	4:45	9:20	4:28	8:44	4:37	9:01	4:34
9:02	4:53	8:47	4:23	8:26	4:51	9:17	4:36	8:41	4:43	8:59	4:41
8:58	5:01	8:43	4:31	8:23	4:58	9:12	4:44	8:38	4:51	8:54	4:49
8:53	5:09	8:37	4:40	8:19	5:05	9:06	4:54	8:33	4:59	8:49	4:58
8:46	5:18	8:30	4:50	8:13	5:13	9:06	5:04	8:27	5:08	8:42	5:08
8:39	5:28	8:22	5:00	8:07	5:22	8:49	5:15	8:20	5:17	8:34	5:17
8:36	5:32	8:18	5:04	8:04	5:25	8:46	5:19	8:17	5:21	8:31	5:21
8:29	5:40	8:11	5:12	7:58	5:32	8:38	5:28	8:10	5:28	8:24	5:29
8:19	5:49	8:01	5:23	7:50	5:40	8:27	5:39	8:01	5:38	8:14	5:40
8:09	5:59	7:50	5:33	7:42	5:49	8:16	5:50	7:51	5:47	8:04	5:50
7:59	6:09	7:39	5:44	7:33	5:57	8:04	6:01	7:41	5:56	7:53	6:00
7:48	6:19	7:28	5:54	7:23	6:06	7:52	6:12	7:31	6:06	7:41	6:10

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1 The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is valid in WMUs 310, 312, 322-356 and 360.

2 The option of the use of a Partner Licence may apply. See page 16 for details on Partner Licences.

3 See page 30 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk.

4 Hunting sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep on page 28.

5 WMUs 302 and 328 are open only for full-curl rams.

6 The baiting of black bears is permitted in WMUs 320, 322, 324, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348, 358, 359, 360, and portions of 357.

7 The Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid in WMUs 320-360.

8 The cougar season in specific WMUs will close prior to the closing date on this table if either the total quota or the female quota for those WMUs is reached. Before hunting cougars in any WMU, hunters must ensure that the season in that WMU remains open, by calling the toll free cougar hotline (1-800-661-3729) and listening to the message listing current closures. The hotline is updated regularly, and, by calling after 4:30 pm, hunters can confirm which units will be open the next day.

**Additional hunting opportunities** in the Foothills WMUs:

• WMU 300 Elk Special Licence, Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence and Grizzly Bear Special Licence. Refer to page 48 for season dates or to the 2003 *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.

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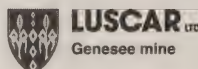
Our employees and contractors can be on our land 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Their lives and safety are at risk if you hunt in areas that are designated and marked with our sign

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**JUNE 2003**



# Mountain WMUs (400 Series)

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for details.

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons, and see additional notes at end of this table.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406, 408
		S3 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		S3 - S23	S24 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	N1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		S3 - S23	N1 - N15	400, 402
		A25 - S16	N1 - N15	429
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402, 404, 406, 408
		S3 - N30		410
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 417, 429, 432, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	416, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439
Moose	Antlered <sup>2</sup> and Antlerless <sup>2</sup>	S3 - S23	■ S24 - N30	404, 406
		S3 - N30		410
	Antlered <sup>2</sup>	A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		■ A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	429
		S3 - S23	■ S24 - N30	408
		■ S3 - S23	■ S24 - N30	400, 402
Elk	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - N30		410
	Antlered (6-point or larger) <sup>3</sup> and Antlerless	S3 - S16	■ S17 - N30	404, 406, 408
	Antlered (6-point or larger) <sup>3</sup>	A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 428, 430
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	412, 414, 426, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>3</sup>	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	429
		S3 - S16	S17 - N30	400, 402
	Antlerless	S3 - S16	■ S17 - N30	400, 402
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - O8 ■ O9 - N8 ■ N9 - N30	418

*Big Game Seasons in MOUNTAIN WMUs  
continued on page 44*



Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Goat	Not Applicable		■ S17 - O31	400, 440, 442, 444
Trophy Sheep <sup>4</sup>	Resident	S3 - O31		410
		■ S3 - N30		410
			■ A25 - S23 ■ S24 - O31	437 <sup>5</sup>
			A25 - O31	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429 <sup>5</sup> , 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446 <sup>5</sup>
			S3 - O31	400 <sup>5</sup> , 402, 404, 406, 408
		■ N1 - N30		408 (west of Highway 40)
	Non-resident and Non-resident Alien <sup>6</sup>	■ S3 - N30		410
			■ S1 - O15	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446 <sup>5</sup>
Black Bear <sup>7</sup>	Fall 2003	A25 - S2	S3 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	429
		S3 - N30		410
			S3 - N30	400, 402, 404, 406, 408
	Spring 2004	Ap1 - Ma31		410
			Ap1 - Ma15	400, 402, 404, 406, 408
			Ap1 - Ma31	429
			Ap17 - Ju15	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
Cougar <sup>8</sup>	Not Applicable	D1 - F28		410
			D1 - F28	400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446

<sup>1</sup> The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is valid in WMUs 436-446.

<sup>2</sup> The option of the use of a Partner Licence may apply. See page 16 for details on Partner Licences.

<sup>3</sup> See page 30 for descriptions of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

<sup>4</sup> Hunting of sheep is prohibited in several areas. See Restricted Areas for Trophy and Non-trophy Sheep on page 28.

<sup>5</sup> WMUs 400, 429, 437 and 446 are open only for full-curl rams.

<sup>6</sup> These seasons are only valid for hunters who have obtained Trophy Sheep Special Licences through a Class S Outfitter-guide or through a draw (Non-resident [Canadians] only).

<sup>7</sup> The Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid in WMUs 429 and 445.

<sup>8</sup> The cougar season in specific WMUs will close prior to the closing date on this table if either the total quota or the female quota for those WMUs is reached. Before hunting cougars in any WMU, hunters must ensure that the season in that WMU remains open, by calling the toll free cougar hotline (1-800-661-3729) and listening to the message listing current closures. The hotline is updated regularly, and, by calling after 4:30 pm, hunters can confirm which units will be open the next day.

**Additional hunting opportunities in the Mountain WMUs:**

- Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence, WMU 408 Trophy Sheep Special Licence (west of Highway 40) and Grizzly Bear Special Licence. Refer to page 48 for season dates or to the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for further details.

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## Boreal WMUs (500 Series &amp; 841)

■ Indicates seasons that apply only to hunters with applicable Special Licences. Refer to the 2003 *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for details.

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons, and see additional notes at end of this table.

**Bison** – In the area west of highway 35 and north of the Chinchaga River and the Keg River Metis Settlement, bison is a protected species. No one is allowed to hunt bison in this area.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map).

Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
White-tailed Deer <sup>1</sup>	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - O31	N1 - N30	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
		A25 - A31	S1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542, 544
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
			S17 - N30	841
	Antlerless	A25 - A31	N1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542, 544
		A25 - S16	N1 - N7	522, 526
			N1 - N30	841
		A25 - S16	N1 - N30	521, 523, 527, 535, 537
Mule Deer	Antlered and Antlerless	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	500, 505, 507, 508, 509, 510
		A25 - A31	S1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542, 544
	Antlered	A25 - S16	S17 - N30	535, 537
		A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	501, 502, 503, 504, 506
			S17 - N30	841
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
Moose	Antlered <sup>2</sup> and Antlerless <sup>2</sup>	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	500, 502, 506, 507, 509
		■ S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	508
	Antlered <sup>2</sup>		■ S17 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	841
		A25 - S23	■ S24 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - O31 ■ N1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 536, 544
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - O31	517, 518, 529, 530, 542
			N1 - N30 <sup>3</sup>	517, 518, 529, 530, 542
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	503, 504, 505, 510
		A25 - A31	■ S1 - N30 <sup>4</sup>	531, 532, 534, 539, 540
	Antlerless (calf only)	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	505, 510



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Species	Type	SEASON		WMUs
		Archery Only	General	
Elk	Antlered (6-point or larger) <sup>5</sup>	S3 - O31	■ N1 - N30	509
	Antlered (3-point or larger) <sup>5</sup>	S3 - O31	N1 - N30	504, 505, 507, 510
		A25 - S16	S17 - N30	521, 522, 523, 527
	Antlerless	A25 - S16	■ S17 - D15	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
		S3 - O31	■ N1 - D15	504, 507, 509, 510
	Antlered	A25 - S16	■ S17 - N30	526
Black Bear <sup>6,7</sup>	Fall 2003	A25 - A31	S1 - N30	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 536, 539, 540, 542, 544
		A25 - S2	S3 - N30	521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 537
			S3 - N30	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
			S17 - N30	841
	Spring 2004		Ap1 - Ma15	841
			Ap1 - Ma31	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510
			Ap17 - Ju15	511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 542, 544
Cougar <sup>8</sup>	Not Applicable		D1 - F28	505, 507, 510

<sup>1</sup> The Supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer Licence is valid in WMUs 500-511, 520, 523-525, 528, 534-542.

<sup>2</sup> The option of the use of a Partner Licence may apply. See page 16 for details on Partner Licences.

<sup>3</sup> Hunters with Antlered Moose Special Licences obtained through a draw are not eligible to hunt during this season.

<sup>4</sup> If hunting with an Outfitter-Guide these WMUs are split into two seasons: Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 or Nov. 1 – Nov. 30.

<sup>5</sup> See page 30 for description of 3-point or larger elk and 6-point or larger elk.

<sup>6</sup> The baiting of black bears is permitted in WMUs 500-507, 509, 510, 512-520, 522, 523, 526, 529-536, 539-542 and portions of 521, 528 and 544.

<sup>7</sup> The Supplemental Black Bear Licence is valid in WMUs 500-544 and 841.

<sup>8</sup> The cougar season in specific WMUs will close prior to the closing date on this table if either the total quota or the female quota for those WMUs is reached. Before hunting cougars in any WMU, hunters must ensure that the season in that WMU remains open, by calling the toll free cougar hotline (1-800-661-3729) and listening to the message listing current closures. The hotline is updated regularly, and, by calling after 4:30 pm, hunters can confirm which units will be open the next day.



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## Season Dates And Locations (refer to page 7 for month abbreviations)

### Non-trophy Sheep Special Licence

Areas 416, 418A*, 418B*, 420, 422A*, 426A*, 430A*, 430B*, 432, 434A*, 434B*, 437, 438A*, 440, 442, 444, 445A*, 445B* .....	S3 - O31
Areas (402 - 303, 306)*, 402 - 308*, 402A*, 406A*, 406B*, 408A*, 408B* .....	S6 - O31
Area 410 .....	S3 - N30

\* These areas comprise either a portion of one WMU or all of one WMU and a portion of an adjacent WMU. See descriptions in the *2003 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

### Camp Wainwright Deer Special Licence (WMUs 728 and 730)

Primitive Weapons .....	N27 - N29
Rifle .....	D1 - D3, D4 - D6, D8 - D10, D11 - D13

### Antelope Archery Special Licence

WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 .....	S3 - S27
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

### Trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 138, 142, 144, 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 .....	S29 - O4
WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 140, 148 .....	O20 - O25

### Non-trophy Antelope Special Licence

WMUs 128, 140 .....	O23 - O25, O27 - O29
WMUs 150, 151, 152, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166 .....	O2 - O4, O9 - O11

### Cypress Hills Elk Special Licence

WMUs 116, 118, 119 and 624 .....	Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. only, O7 - N28
WMUs 116, 118 and 119 .....	Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. only, D2 - J9, 2004

### WMU 300 Elk Special Licence S3 - O24, O25 - D24, D25 - F21, 2004

### Grizzly Bear Special Licence

The list of WMUs that will be open for the 2004 spring hunt will be available in the fall, 2003.

Refer to the *2004 Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet for details on what seasons will be open and how to apply for special licences that will be available in the fall 2004 and spring 2005.

## Other Species

### Season Dates and Locations

**NOTE:** It is unlawful, with the following exceptions, to allow the pelt of any furbearing animal to be wasted:

- It is not legally necessary to salvage pelts of 1) furbearing animals taken in accordance with regulations authorizing control of problem wildlife, or 2) coyotes harvested, by residents, outside of public lands in the Green Area.

### Timber Wolf

A Resident may, without a licence, hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2004, or until June 15, 2004 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2004.

A Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a Non-resident/Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence may hunt (but not trap) timber wolf from the opening of any big game season in a particular WMU to May 31, 2004, or until June 15, 2004 in WMUs where black bear seasons are open until June 15, 2004.

It is unlawful to use bait to hunt wolves in any area where baiting is not allowed for black bear (see page 33).

### Coyote

A Resident may, without a licence and on land to which he or she has the right of access, hunt (but not trap) coyote at all times of the year throughout the province, except as follows:

- 1) on public lands in the Green Area, only from October 1, 2003 to February 28, 2004, and
- 2) in Camp Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730), only from December 15, 2003 to February 28, 2004.

See page 24 for information on coyote hunting for control of livestock predation.

Subject to the exception (\*) below, a Non-resident or Non-resident Alien who holds a valid Non-resident/Non-resident Alien Wolf/Coyote Licence may hunt coyote on lands to which he or she has the right of access at all times of the year throughout the province – except on public lands in the Green Area where the season is from October 1, 2003 to February 28, 2004.

\*Exception: if a big game season (other than a cougar season) is open in the area he or she is hunting, then the Non-resident or Non-resident Alien hunter of coyotes must possess a current big game licence issued for that area and open season.

### Red Fox and Badger

A Resident may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) red fox and hunt badger on any privately owned land to which he or she has the right of access.

### Bobcat

A resident may, without a licence and at all times of the year, hunt (but not trap) bobcat in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118, 119 and in the portion of WMU 110 that lies east of highway 2 and south of highway 3.

### Other Animals

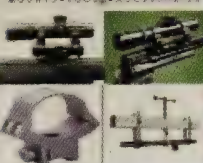
Porcupine, rabbit, hare, skunk, raccoon and woodchuck may be hunted, but not trapped\*, without a licence throughout the province, at all times of the year.

\* The trapping of rabbit, hare, skunk and raccoon is authorized without a licence under some circumstances. Please refer to the *2003 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations*, available in September, 2003.



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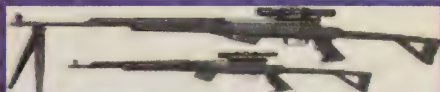
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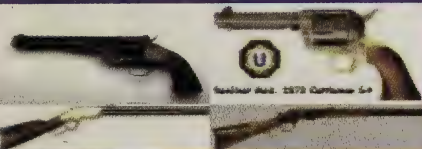
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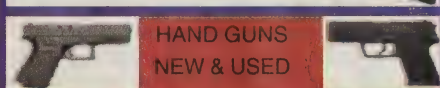
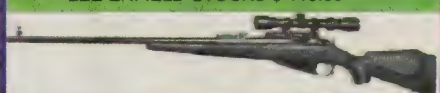
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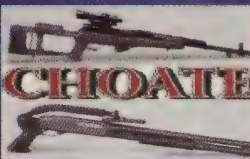
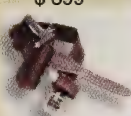
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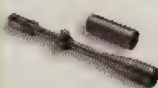


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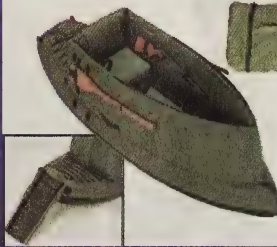
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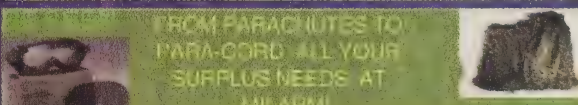


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## Falconry Hunting

Holders of a Recreational Falconry Permit are permitted to hunt upland game birds and migratory game birds, by means of falconry, in all areas of the province except in national parks and those restricted areas identified on pages 24 through 29. In order to hunt game birds with a falconry bird, a falconer requires a Wildlife Certificate plus

- a Game Bird Licence if hunting grouse, partridge or ptarmigan;
- a Game Bird Licence and a Pheasant Licence if hunting pheasants; or
- a Game Bird Licence and a Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit if hunting migratory game birds.

## Seasons

The open season to hunt upland game birds by means of falconry is from August 15, 2003 to March 31, 2004 (Sundays included). Migratory game birds may be hunted by means of falconry during the designated open season for migratory birds (Sundays included) (pages 52 to 56).

## Bowhunting

Hunters wishing to hunt game birds with a bow and arrow, other than a cross-bow, require a Bowhunting Permit in addition to the other applicable licences.

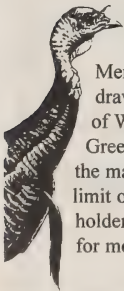
## Designated Pheasant Release Sites

The operation of the pheasant hatchery at Brooks was privatized in April 2000 with a non-government partnership, the Canadian Pheasant Company. For more information about the pheasant release program, please contact the Canadian Pheasant Company (403-362-4122).

During the open season for male pheasants, the hunting of game birds, including pheasants, is not permitted in the following designated pheasant release sites after 2:00 p.m. on any day, except Saturdays.

### WMU

- 152 Millicent Buck for Wildlife Project (NE19 and 30-20-13-W4)
- 206 Buffalo Lake Buck for Wildlife Project (9 and SW10-40-21-W4)
- 210 Bigelow Buck for Wildlife Project (3, E9, SW10 & LSD 12 and 13 of 10-34-25-W4)



## Merriam's Turkey Draw

Merriam's Turkey Special Licences are issued through a draw. Licences will be valid in all of WMU 302 and that part of WMU 305 that is within the shaded area (refers to the Green Area established under the Public Lands Act) shown on the map. The season is from May 1 to May 31, 2004 with a bag limit of one bearded Merriam's turkey per special licence holder. Please read the **2003 Alberta Hunting Draws** booklet for more information on how to apply for this draw.

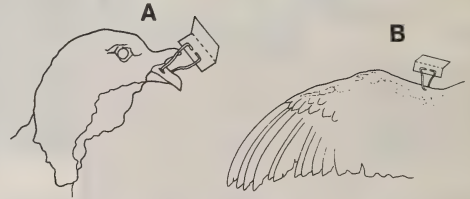
Each Merriam's turkey harvested must be tagged

- immediately after the bird is killed, and
- in the manner described below with the paper tag supplied with each licence. All instructions on the back of the paper tag must be followed.

Tags must remain affixed until the carcass is delivered to

- the usual residence of the person who killed it, and is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption, or
- to a premises in respect of which there is a Food Establishment Permit issued under the *Public Health Act* or Licence for the Operation of an Abattoir issued under the *Meat Inspection Act*.

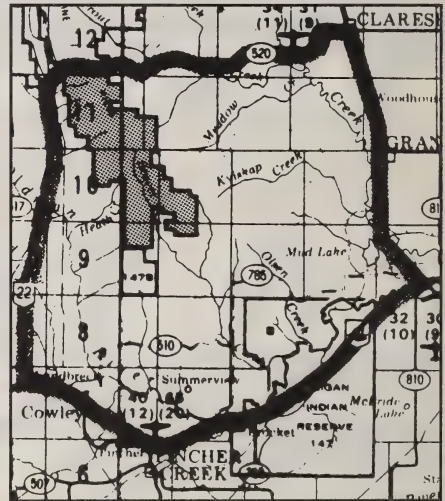
## Merriam's Turkey Tagging Instructions



Tagging Instructions: (A) place wire through the nares, or (B) through the patagium between the tendon and the bones of the wing.

Please refer to items 2, 12 and 13 of Prohibitions, Game Bird section (pages 13 and 14) for additional requirements concerning weapons and evidence of sex and species for Merriam's turkey.

### WMU 305




## West Nile Virus

### Are hunters at risk of west nile virus when handling hunter-killed birds?

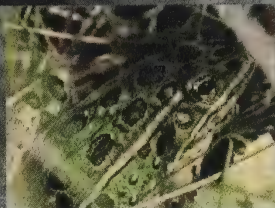
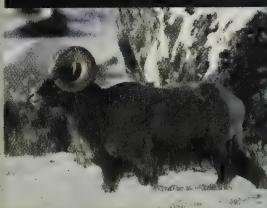
Health officials advise that there is no evidence or reason to believe that there is any risk of getting west nile virus from handling hunter-killed birds in Alberta. Free-flying birds are unlikely to contain sufficient virus to pass on an infection. In addition, the only evidence of direct transfer of west nile virus from birds to humans without going through a mosquito are two accidental infections when lab technicians were handling heavily infected crows. Similarly, hunting dogs are not at risk when retrieving hunter-killed birds.

Hunters are advised to take precautions against being bitten by mosquitoes, which are common in wetland habitats and are active at dawn and dusk when temperatures are suitable for insect activity.





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## Special Hunting Areas

In WMUs 212 and 248 the hunting of game birds is only permitted with bows and arrows, cross-bows, shotguns or a falconry bird.

In WMU 410 the hunting of game birds is permitted only with bows and arrows or a falconry bird.

## Please Remember

Federal regulations prohibit the use of lead shot or cross-bows for hunting waterfowl.

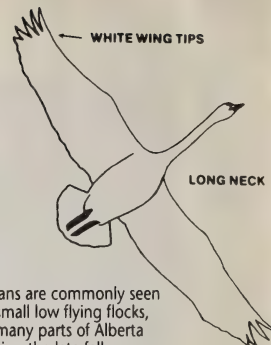
All birds are protected except the following: Starlings, Crows, Pigeons, House (English) Sparrows, Magpies, Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Ravens (hunted on private land by residents) and any other birds for which an open season has been declared by the regulations as indicated in this summary.

## SAGE GROUSE ARE PROTECTED

Sage grouse are listed as an endangered species in Alberta. If you hunt upland game birds within the range of sage grouse, be sure your target is not a sage grouse.



SNOW GOOSE



SWAN (Do Not Shoot)

Swans are commonly seen in small low flying flocks, in many parts of Alberta during the late fall.

## GAME BIRD BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Species	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Requirements
Male Pheasant	2	6	Snow Goose and Ross' Goose	20	60	(a) of which not more than five (5) may be white-fronted geese.
Ruffed Grouse	10	20	Canada Goose and White-fronted Goose	8 (a)	16 (b)	(b) of which not more than ten (10) may be white-fronted geese.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	5	10	Ducks	8 (c)	16 (d)	(c) of which not more than four (4) may be a pintail.
Ptarmigan	5	20	Common Snipe	10	20	(d) of which not more than eight (8) may be pintails.
Blue Grouse	5	10	Coot	10	20	(e) may be hunted with Special Licence only.
Spruce Grouse	10	20	Merriam's Turkey	1 (e)	1 (e)	
Gray Partridge	5	10				

## GAME BIRD SEASONS

### Prairie WMUs (100 Series)

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays, except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map), and except for white geese which may be hunted on Sundays throughout the province.



Species	Season	WMUs
Male Pheasants	O15 - N15	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	S15 - N30	108, 110, 132, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166
Sharp-tailed Grouse	O1 - O31	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166
Gray Partridge	S15 - N30	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166
Ducks, Coots, Common Snipe, White-fronted and Canada Geese and Snow and Ross' Geese (including falconry hunting)	S8 - D23	102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 124, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166



# Parkland WMUs (200 Series & 728, 730, 936)

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays, except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map), and except for white geese which may be hunted on Sundays throughout the province.



Species	Season	WMUs
Male Pheasants	O15 - N15	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 936 <sup>1</sup>
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	S15 - N30	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	O1 - N15	214, 216, 221, 224
	O1 - O31	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 220, 222, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 936 <sup>1</sup>
Gray Partridge	S15 - N30	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 936 <sup>1</sup>
Ruffed and Sharp-tailed Grouse (Camp Wainwright) <sup>2</sup>	A30 - S1	728, 730
Ducks, Coots, Common Snipe, White-fronted and Canada Geese and Snow and Ross' Geese (including falconry hunting)	S1 - D16	200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 216, 220, 221, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 936 <sup>1</sup>
	S8 - D23	210, 212, 214

<sup>1</sup> Hunters (including bowhunters) require a "Firearms Discharge Permit" to hunt in WMU 936. Self-registration permits are available on a 24-hour, 7- days-a-week basis at the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Recreation Area office, at the west entrance of WMU 936. Vehicle access is permitted to staging areas only. Horse use is permitted on designated equestrian trails. All other trails are accessible only by foot traffic. For further information, telephone 780-922-3293.

<sup>2</sup> WARNING: Hazards in the form of unexploded military munitions may exist throughout Camp Wainwright. Hunters are advised not to touch any foreign objects. Camp Wainwright officials have advised that all hunters using shotguns to hunt game birds at Camp Wainwright must use non-toxic shot. Lead shot is not allowed.



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## Foothills WMUs (300 Series)

■ Indicates a season that only applies to hunters with a Merriam's Turkey Special Licence. Refer to the 2003 *Alberta Hunting Draws* booklet.

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays, except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map), and except for white geese which may be hunted on Sundays throughout the province.



Species	Season	WMUs
Male Pheasants	S1 - O31	350, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	O15 - N15	300, 302, 304, 305, 310, 312, 314, 320, 322, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348, 349
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	S1 - N30	316, 318, 344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	S15 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 348
Blue Grouse	S1 - N30	316, 318, 326, 328, 344, 347, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356
	S15 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 320, 324, 339, 340, 342
Sharp-tailed Grouse	S1 - N30	344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 351, 352
	O1 - O31	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	O1 - N15	310, 312, 314, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 348
Ptarmigan	S1 - D15	316, 318, 355, 356
Gray Partridge	S1 - N30	344, 346, 347, 349, 350, 352, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	S15 - N30	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 320, 322, 324, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 340, 342, 348
Merriam's Turkey	■ 2004 Ma1 - Ma31	302, and part of 305 (see page 50).
Ducks, Coots, Common Snipe, White-fronted and Canada Geese and Snow and Ross' Geese (including falconry hunting)	S1 - D16	316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 344, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360
	S8 - D23	300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314

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## GAME BIRD SEASONS

### Mountain WMUs (400 Series)

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays, except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map), and except for white geese which may be hunted on Sundays throughout the province.



Species	Season	WMUs
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	S1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	S15 - N30	400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 429
Blue Grouse	S1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	S15 - N30	400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 429
Sharp-tailed Grouse	O1 - O31	400, 402
Ptarmigan	S1 - N30	412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446
	S15 - N30	400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410
Ducks, Coots, Common Snipe, White-fronted and Canada Geese and Snow and Ross' Geese (including falconry hunting)	S1 - D16	400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 429, 430, 432, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 444, 445, 446

## GAME BIRD SEASONS

### Boreal WMUs (500 Series & 841)

See page 7 for definitions of month abbreviations used in seasons.

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays, except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map), and except for white geese which may be hunted on Sundays throughout the province.



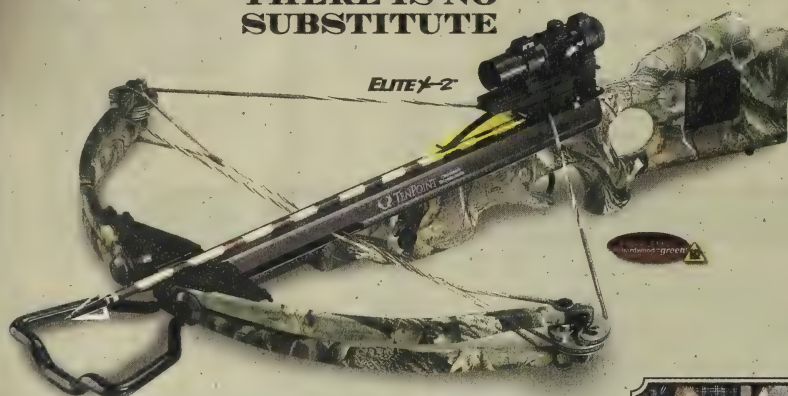
Species	Season	WMUs
Male Pheasants	S1 - O31	511, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 535, 544
	O15 - N15	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 514, 515
Ruffed and Spruce Grouse	S1 - N30	501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 509, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 542, 544
	S15 - N30	500, 507, 508, 841
Sharp-tailed Grouse	S1 - N30	511, 512, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 524, 525, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 542, 544
	O1 - O31	521, 522, 523, 526, 527
	O1 - N15	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 514, 515, 841
Ptarmigan	S1 - D15	518, 519, 520, 524, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 542, 544

*Bird Game Seasons in BOREAL WMUs continued on page 57*



# TENPOINT

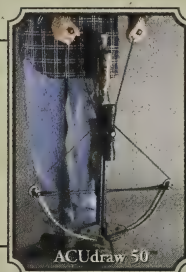
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Hunting is not permitted on Sundays except in the Sunday Hunting Area (see insert map), and except for white geese which may be hunted on Sundays throughout the province.

Species	Season	WMUs
Gray Partridge	S1 - N30	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 509, 510, 511, 514, 515, 521, 522, 523, 526, 527, 544
	S15 - N30	507, 508
Ducks, Coots, Common Snipe, White-fronted and Canada Geese and Snow and Ross' Geese (including falconry hunting)	S1 - D16	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539, 540, 542, 544
	S15 - D16	841

## HUNTING WITH CROSS-BOWS

Since the fall season of 2002, cross-bows are not "prohibited" for hunting wildlife in Alberta, although there may be federal licensing requirements. See page 22 for federal government contact information. Cross-bows may not be used to hunt big game during archery-only seasons. The only exception is for an eligible handicapped hunter who has obtained a cross-bow licence. A Bowhunting Permit, as required by bowhunters using conventional archery equipment, is **not** required by persons who are hunting with cross-bows.

In accordance with federal regulations, cross-bows may not be used for waterfowl hunting.

Persons hunting big game with a cross-bow must use an authorized cross-bow and arrow (bolt). An authorized cross-bow is one that requires 100 pounds or more of pull to draw the string or cable to its cocked position. There is no restriction on arrow length however the tip must bear a sharp, unbarbed 3 bladed bodkin head or a sharp steel unbarbed cutting head of at least 7/8 inch in width.

## GAME MANAGEMENT

### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) IN ALBERTA:

There is some public and media concern about potential human health risks associated with CWD. The Fish and Wildlife Division, in conjunction with Alberta Health and Wellness, has evaluated the risk and concluded that **all current information suggests that human infection with CWD is highly unlikely. In particular, the risk to humans who eat wild meat taken in Alberta is near-zero.**

As far as we know, Chronic Wasting Disease only infects members of the deer family. Clinical signs include weight loss, excessive salivation, lethargy, uncoordinated movement, and drooping head and ears. Based on current knowledge, this disease is limited to deer and elk (CWD has never been found in moose), affects individual body condition, does not spread rapidly, and has limited short-term impact on affected populations. There is a perceived theoretical human health risk associated with CWD; although there is no credible evidence to support this perception and growing evidence that it is unlikely.

Alberta has scientifically-credible risk assessments and surveillance programs for CWD. **However, we need your help.** The primary surveillance of wild deer and elk is based on voluntary submission of heads of hunter-killed animals. To June 2003, we have tested over 3,500 heads of wild white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. **ALL SAMPLES FROM WILD DEER AND ELK IN ALBERTA WERE NEGATIVE FOR CWD.**

Due to scientific and logistical constraints, surveillance programs must target specific areas.

Detailed programs for 2003 are being developed at the time of writing this summary but before hunting seasons open, they will be identified in various Fish and Wildlife communications as well as on the Divisional web pages [[www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/)].

For 2003, heads from hunter-killed **adult** deer and elk are requested from two target areas:

- Alberta/Saskatchewan border from Lloydminster to Provost, including WMUs 234, 236, 256, and 500.
- central Alberta, including WMUs 248 (areas NORTH of Hwy 16), 250, 507, 508 and 349 (areas EAST of Hwy 32).

In addition to the wild surveillance, over 9,000 farmed elk and deer in Alberta have been tested (up to June 2003). CWD was found in one farmed elk and two farmed white-tailed deer. The national CWD control and eradication program was implemented and appropriate animals humanely removed and tested. Investigation of these cases continues and results are made available as they are received.

Check the Wildlife Diseases web pages [[www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/index.html](http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/diseases/index.html)] for additional background information about CWD.

ATV  
RENTALS



ATV  
RENTALS

**TRAIL BOSS**

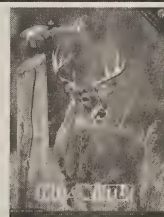
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## Marked Wildlife

Some species of wildlife are banded, collared or marked by other means in an ongoing effort to gain additional population biology information. You can assist and cooperate in these programs by reporting encounters with any marked animal to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10).

Some of these marked wildlife, as well as certain nuisance animals (e.g., some black bears), may have received drugs for medicinal purposes or to facilitate their capture and handling. Any such animal will be marked with a tag advising that the meat of the animal should not be consumed before contacting the Fish and Wildlife Division of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

## Population Status Information

Information from the harvest questionnaires, compulsory registrations and animal population surveys helps to determine the annual status of wildlife populations. It also helps monitor changes in animal populations over time. The information that hunters provide through programs like the harvest questionnaire and compulsory registration is vital to the management of Alberta's wildlife resource. The Fish and Wildlife

## Report Waterfowl Leg Bands by Telephone

All waterfowl leg bands recovered in North America can now be reported by telephoning the toll-free number **1-800-327-BAND** (1-800-327-2263). Calls can be made from anywhere in Canada or the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. However, operators are only available from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern time, Monday to Friday. After-hours and weekend callers will hear a recorded message requesting they leave their name and daytime telephone number so that the Bird Banding Lab can call them back. Recovered bands can still be reported by mail, or to the nearest office of the Fish and Wildlife Division (page 10), if you do not wish to report the band by telephone.

Division thanks all hunters who have cooperated by providing information.

A summary of the latest report on this information, *Harvest and Effort by Resident Hunters*, is posted on the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Web site (<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fw/hunting/>). Click on *Hunter Information*.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### The Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partnership

As the NAWMP Partnership enters its 17th year in Alberta, the protection and restoration of important waterfowl habitat continues. Along with many Albertans, NAWMP partners are awaiting the return of normal precipitation conditions, so that restored and enhanced wetlands will be able to meet their potential in supporting increased numbers of breeding and migrating waterfowl, and many other game and non-game species as well. The spring of 2003 brought us a huge step closer to this goal.

In southern Alberta, Alberta NAWMP is focused on restoring populations of the northern pintail. To this end, nearly 2,500 acres of primarily native prairie have been purchased along the Milk River Ridge. Here, cultivated land is being returned to perennial cover and drained wetlands are being restored. The purchase of this land, locally known as the Skipworth property, was identified as a priority habitat area for the northern pintail.

In the Aspen Parkland, NAWMP partners continue to support landowners in voluntary stewardship activities, and promote government policies that lead to the conservation of native habitat and the retention of wetlands. A significant inventory project in this region is helping to identify critical pockets of native habitat. Many research studies have shown that native habitat supports a greater diversity of wildlife species than any other habitat that has been altered by man.

A relatively new program in the Peace Parkland promotes the growing of winter wheat. This is an environmentally-sound agricultural practice that provides early spring cover for nesting waterfowl and an economically-viable crop option for farmers. Work is continuing to gain a better understanding of the important role wetlands in the parkland/boreal transition zone play in providing additional brood rearing habitat, particularly when areas to the south are drier than normal. Wetlands in this transition zone are under increasing pressure from other land uses. As well, remnant patches of native grasslands are also being identified and mapped in the Peace Parkland.

Alberta hunters and the Fish and Wildlife Division contribute more than \$725,000 to the NAWMP Partnership each year. This investment in the future of Alberta's wildlife is multiplied many times over when combined with the contributions of other NAWMP partners. Together, these partners complete habitat projects that directly increase the production of game and non-game species, and undertake communications activities that positively influence the actions of Alberta's agricultural producers and other land managers.

Most Alberta NAWMP properties are available for hunting by foot access only. Land management arrangements may result in some access restrictions, so please remember to ask permission before entering any of these properties by calling your local Ducks Unlimited Canada office. For more information on the Alberta NAWMP Partnership visit the website at [www.nawmp.ab.ca](http://www.nawmp.ab.ca).

**Alberta NAWMP Partners:** Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Environment, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Environment Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada.



## "WHERE WATER WORKS WONDERS"

The EID manages its land with a multi-use concept. Hunting is generally permitted on EID owned grasslands but the following guidelines must be followed.

- Vehicles must stay on established roads • No ATVs or motorbikes
- No camping or fires except in designated areas • No hunting near livestock
- Obey all signs, some areas have added restrictions

Access to these private lands is a privilege not a right, please "USE RESPECT AND HUNT WITH CARE".

Contact our office in Brooks for further information at 403-362-1400.



# WISE Foundation and Alberta Conservation Education Program

The Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation and The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association exist entirely for the purpose of providing Fish and Wildlife Conservation Education programs to Albertans.

Programs include Alberta Fishing Education, Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education, Outdoor Camp Programs, Wildlife and Fisheries

## USE RESPECT Program

The *Use Respect* program encourages recreational land users and grazing leaseholders to understand and respect each other's rights and needs.

First introduced in 1983, the *Use Respect* program was designed in response to the concerns of farmers and ranchers about the general public accessing their land. Many groups, including outdoors people supported the campaign that appealed to all Albertans to act responsibly by observing the rights and property of others.

Recent conflicts between grazing lease holders and recreation users make the *Use Respect* program more relevant today than it was in 1983. Conflicts have arisen when people have used private property or public land held under an agricultural disposition, without first consulting the landholder.

A recent Alberta Court of Appeal decision indicated that a grazing leaseholder has the right to "bar access or use that may be injurious or incompatible with the lessee's rights under the grazing lease."

Seminars, Canadian Firearms Safety Course, Outdoor Women's Seminars, Outdoor Youth Seminars and many others. All these programs are provided by volunteer instructors who have been trained and certified.

Facilities include the Calgary and Edmonton Conservation Education Centres for Excellence, the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence and the Calgary Firearms Centre.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com) or phone Edmonton # 780-466-6682; Calgary # 403-252-8474.

*Use Respect* signs, which provide people with information about limited access, restrictions on motorized vehicles, and who should be contacted for permission, are available at local Fish and Wildlife Division offices. Please begin your hunt by obtaining permission from the landholder.

## Use Respect. All you have to do is ask!

### Wild Game Public Health Advisory

The wild game public health advisory for the Swan Hills area — originally issued on December 13, 1996, by the Provincial Health Officer — has been revised as a result of more extensive wild game testing. While recent test results confirm that eating wild game from the Swan Hills area poses no immediate threat to human health, it is recommended that individuals limit the amount of wild game eaten.

Wild game meat samples taken from near Swan Hills Treatment Centre were found to have elevated levels of PCBs, dioxins and furans. Because these contaminants may accumulate over time, the following precautionary measures are recommended:

- Limit consumption of wild game taken from within a 30-km radius (see map below) of the Swan Hills Treatment Centre to 13 ounces (370 grams) per month.
- Avoid eating organ meat (liver, kidney) or using fat from game harvested within a 30-km radius.
- If you are pregnant or breast feeding, avoid eating meat from wild game taken within a 30-km radius.
- Young children should avoid eating meat taken from within a 30-km radius.
- Continue to avoid eating fish taken from within a 30-km radius until fish sample testing is complete.

The advisory applies to animals taken last fall, as well as to those that will be taken in the coming year. It is in effect until further notice.

For more information, contact the Medical Officer of Health, Aspen Regional Authority at 962-9687.



## REPORT A POACHER

In Alberta Dial Toll Free: 1-800-642-3800

**1-800-642-3800 or #3800 on the TELUS Mobility network** (courtesy TELUS Mobility). The line is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fishing or hunting out of season, night hunting, exceeding bag limits, illegal sale of fish and wildlife and deposit of harmful substances in lakes and rivers are violations that seriously affect fish and wildlife in Alberta. If you see or know of a violation, you should record all information, including

- date
- time
- location
- vehicle licence number
- vehicle description
- description of person(s) involved
- details of violation, and any other details, no matter how insignificant they may seem. You should then contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office or call **1-800-642-3800** as soon as possible.

If the information provided concerns a resource violation and results in the laying of a charge, the reporter may be eligible for a reward. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 10).



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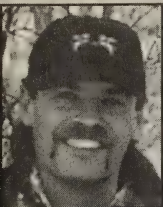
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## MESSAGE from the PUBLISHER



**Rob Miskosky**

**I** look upon 2003 as a challenging year. I will finally get my mule deer buck draw and I have an excellent chance of getting drawn for cow elk. So, with the proper effort and time spent

afield, 2003 may prove to be one of my better years . . . or at least I'm hoping.

I believe a successful season could be the case for many Alberta hunters. Several new opportunities have been allotted and new areas have had the Sunday hunting restriction lifted, allowing for more time in the wilds of Alberta. For me, one of these lifted restrictions is in a favourite zone, so I will be compelled to add a longer stint in this area at some point during our all too short hunting season.

Four mountain goat tags have also been added to the draw. These tags will be given out in the Willmore Wilderness Park to four lucky hunters. Oh to dream. In past forays into the Willmore I've witnessed several goat herds and wished I had a tag in my pocket. My name will most certainly be going in on this draw as well.

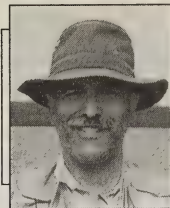
I've also started bird hunting again after too many years of focusing strictly on big game. While my forays last year after waterfowl were limited, the chances I did have reminded me of what I had been missing. Many years prior I had spent most of my hunting seasons chasing waterfowl with little regard for big game. For one reason or another I had stopped chasing migratory birds, but now, realizing what I had been missing, I will be back on the water and in the fields with shotgun in hand.

2002 proved to be a successful year for at least three Alberta hunters. Brent Kuntz of Heisler tagged up with a massive bull elk and as a result became our 2002 Alberta Hunter of the Year. Also, Jerry Ewasiuk and Aldo Zanon, both from Edmonton, became our mule deer and white-tailed deer champions respectively, with impressive bucks taken this past season. You can see all their trophies on page 76. I would like to congratulate all three on having a great 2002 season and wish them more success in 2003.

On a final note, I would like to remind everybody to behave while hunting this year. Our image as hunters is only protected by our actions in the field. Let's show respect to our landowners and to the animals we pursue and have a safe and happy 2003 hunting season.

Good luck everybody.

# Confessions of a Minimalist



by  
**Don  
Meredith**

**A**t the risk of being accused of not possessing certain male genetic material, I have to admit that I'm not a "gear head" or someone having a keen interest in things mechanical. I know enough about the workings of an internal combustion engine to solve minor problems or save some money doing certain services myself. I still change my own oil when it's convenient to do so; and before my automobile engines were managed by onboard computer chips, I even did minor tune-ups. However, I have no burning desire to tear something apart when it still works perfectly well. I have other pursuits to occupy my time. Therefore, I try to keep the number of engines I maintain to a minimum, which in this day and

time can be a difficult thing to do.

I'm a moose hunter and current fashion almost demands that I buy and maintain a quad ATV to extend my hunting range and help haul out game. However, when our party started moose hunting back in the 1970s, quads weren't readily available. So, we learned to hunt moose

the old fashion way — by walking and hauling out the game on our backs. As a result, when ATVs became popular, we had a difficult time justifying the considerable expense. One member of our party eventually broke down and bought a used ATV, but we only use it to help haul out game, which has indeed saved a lot of time and sore backs.

In general, I don't maintain an impressive amount of fishing and hunting gear. Sure, I go to outdoor shows and stores to see what's new and

different, and I can be impressed by a fancy new lure or a sleek new shotgun. But before I reach for my wallet, I always ask whether I



*continued on page 62*

## Important Notice to Hunters!

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really need this item? Is what I'm already using working well enough? In most cases, I determine that I've been doing all right with what I've got.

That's not to say I don't buy new gadgets once in a while. A few years back I was fascinated by the portable Global Positioning System (GPS) devices that were coming on the market. I had spent several seasons in the Arctic in the 1970s using the precursor to that system to navigate survey aircraft. Instead of receiving radio signals from satellites to pinpoint locations, the older system used very low-frequency radio signals from ground stations. The device was also quite large and expensive. But I was impressed with the accuracy it provided. So, when this modern-day version was made available in a very portable form for just a few hundred dollars, I had to have it.

Although I've enjoyed using my GPS unit, I have yet to find a truly practical use for it. Sure, it's handy in a boat to navigate across a lake, but on most of the lakes I frequent, I can find my way quite easily using landmarks. The one time where it did come in handy was when our party was traveling on a northern Alberta lake that entered the Northwest Territories. There was no sign or cairn to mark the boundary. So, I employed the GPS unit to tell me when we had crossed 60° North and came under the jurisdiction of the NWT fishing regulations.

I've also used the unit on hunting trips, but have found myself spending more time messing with the GPS than concentrating on the hunting. The result has been that I bury the device in my pack, where I keep it until such time that I might need it to pinpoint the location of a downed animal that I may have to leave in the bush until I can round up my partners for transport out. However, when I have shot an animal, I've always forgotten to use the machine, because I didn't really need it – I knew how to find

my game by more familiar and traditional means.

I've actually found the GPS to be most useful in a highway vehicle where it accurately tracks speed, direction, kilometres traveled and kilometres left to travel (in a straight line). Once again, however, this is not as much necessary information as it is interesting information.

Perhaps it's experiences such as these that cause me to rely on my old and faithful equipment. I'm still pretty handy with a map and compass, and I hunt most of my big game with an old Remington .30-06 that was given to me when I was a teenager. I have since bought a .243 for my November deer hunting. It is a much lighter rifle than the .30-06.

However, elk have moved into our traditional deer hunting areas in recent years, and I'm contemplating packing the heavier rifle in November. I probably won't because I like the .243, but I have to admit that the .30-06 fits me like an old glove and I know its idiosyncrasies like the back of my hand.

It's hard not to be intrigued by technological advances. Fish finders allow anglers to find where the fish hang out without even wetting a line. New rifle scopes can provide distance-to-target information without having to think about it. A variety of ATVs can take you

just about anywhere you want to go without getting your boots dirty (well, almost). A GPS device can tell you exactly where you are on the face of the planet with a push of a button. Truck campers and recreational vehicles can ensure you a safe and warm night's sleep, just as if you never left home.

But what do we lose by adopting these devices? I hunt and fish for the wilderness experiences such activities provide. If riding an ATV prevents me from hearing wildlife, then I won't ride. If fumbling with a GPS receiver causes me to miss a fresh track or the sight of a deer passing through the trees, then I'll put the GPS away. If I can't judge the distance to a target without aid, then it's too far away for a shot.

Now, I realize I'm talking about personal preferences here. If you're mechanically or technically minded, and you feel your hunting or fishing trips are enhanced by new technology, then by all means use it. But please don't be upset if I don't share your enthusiasm. I'll be the guy camped in the canvas tent, cooking his food over an open fire, and cursing any time I have to spend fixing a motor or replacing a double-A battery because of the time it takes away from my hunting and fishing or my contemplation of that time. ■

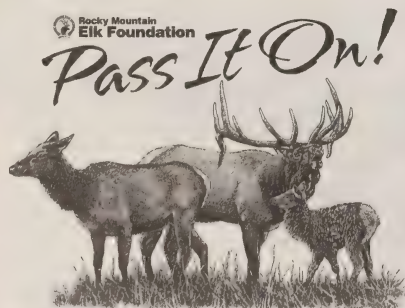


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Call one of our Regional Directors to find out more about wildlife conservation projects, membership and banquets in your area.

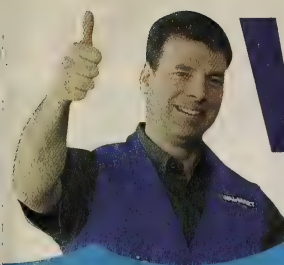
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# ALBERTA'S MULE DEER BOUNTY



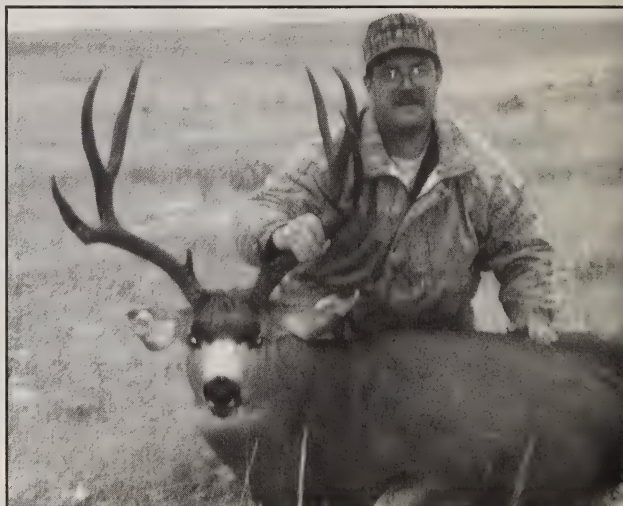
by  
**Brad  
Fenson**

*photos Brad Fenson*

**T**he rolling hills were covered in open grassland for as far as the eye could see and the small bluffs of shrubs were conspicuous by their absence. There was one small strip of trees remaining from a homestead that had long since been abandoned. As I sat and picked things apart with my binoculars, a single mule doe stood up with a nervous look. At that moment I couldn't see any other deer, but the longer I sat there the more deer appeared from nowhere. In total, 12 mule deer transformed themselves from the sparse cover as if growing out of the ground. The last one to stand up was the buck I had been chasing since opening morning. We were still over half a mile away and had not shown any signs of threat to the deer, but nonetheless the nervous group headed to the open country of the grassland.

It was a large block of open country stretching for miles between roads. I thought that it would be easy to locate or keep tabs on the herd in the open country, but they had a tendency to disappear behind ridges and change direction without notice. They were very weary and it almost seemed impossible to get within a mile of them. Every time they came

into view, they were already looking in my direction and making plans for a quick escape. After playing cat and mouse for over an hour I decided to try to get far in front of them. They consistently traveled in the lowest draws to remain undetected and I cut them off by traveling almost two miles ahead and hiking to the lip of the coulee I had last seen them in. As I slowly crept to the edge of the big draw I could see the outline of an ear turned to face in my direction. I stopped and folded out the bipod on my rifle and carefully took one more step forward. Several deer came into view about 200 meters below me and before they could see more than the top of my head they were running for safer ground.



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I quickly ran to the edge of the draw, sat down, and found the big buck trailing his does up the side of the hill across from me. I tried to take my time and make sure that the first shot would find its mark, knowing how difficult it was to get remotely close to the group at all. When the buck was about 270 meters quartering uphill from me I connected with a well placed shot from my .300 WIN magnum. The deer barely stumbled and continued on his retreat. My second shot had that distinctive "whack" that echoed back up the draw towards me. This time the old boy actually stopped and turned broadside. I wasn't about to take any chances and fired one more shot to put the buck on the ground.

I remember that hunt like it was yesterday. When Alberta made significant changes to mule deer management in the southern portions of the province, the results were nothing short of spectacular. Putting the antlered mule deer on the draw and affording them some protection, compared to a general three-point season, produced some awe inspiring bucks that most hunters would never have dreamed possible. It only took a matter of a few years before the trophy-class bucks started to show up and hunters spread rumours like wildfire scorching across the prairies. I took my first trophy mule buck under the new management system and have never looked back.

It does take a few years to get drawn but for me, the quality of the deer far outweighs my interest to hunt smaller bucks on an annual basis. Every



three of four years I plan for my big outing like a kid heading out on his first hunting adventure.

I have seen the results of the management plan with big deer showing up anywhere they are on a draw. I took a great buck in the eastern parkland region a few years ago.

This region of the province is also managed through a limited number of hunting opportunities in any given year, allowing it to gain a reputation for producing some real heart stoppers. I managed to take a great four point with the help of a couple friends on another memorable trip.

Since that time I have expanded my mule deer hunting horizons to the north. The entire Peace River region has long been managed as a general season for any mule deer buck. With hunting seasons opening in September and running through the end of November hunters took their toll on deer numbers. However, just a few years ago, wildlife managers made a bold move to limit hunting opportunity in the region. The result was an improved quality of hunt for trophies and for dealing with fewer hunters in the field. Hunters are now marveling at the trophy class mule deer, like the ones that turned heads on the prairie and parkland regions a decade earlier.

The end result is that I have developed an addiction to mule deer hunting. Waiting the three to four years (minimum) to draw a tag has been hard on me. In order to deal with my problem I have taken up bowhunting, which affords me the chance to hunt the native ungulate on an annual basis. It allows me to stay content with drawing a licence every couple of years to hunt with a firearm. The last two years I have watched some huge deer that forced me to strategize how to get close enough to utilize my bow successfully.

Two years ago I hunted an impressive herd of three bucks that teased and taunted me with their velvet-covered antlers. I learned a lot about hunting mule deer from those big boys and last year I was back on their trail. They were using the same general area and preferred habitat but their herd size expanded to include 15 sets of antlers. I hunted hard and managed to stalk within range of a smaller buck on the last night of the bow season. My Game Tracker carbon arrow passed clear through the deer, allowing me to collect my first bow-killed mule buck. It was an



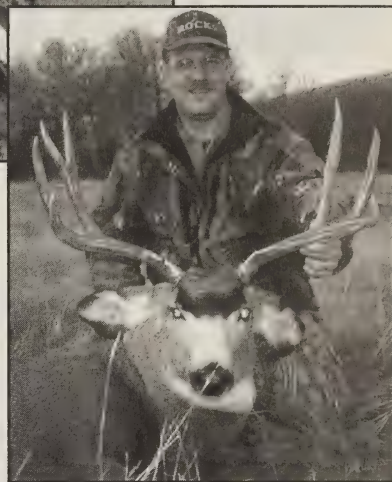
awesome experience.

This year my number should be up for another licence through the limited entry draw. It has been a real struggle to decide where to hunt in the vast regions of this great province. The prairie is still producing some gaggers and the parkland with its extensive amount of escape terrain will always be a good bet. On the other hand, the

Peace region is still developing and may hold some big surprises.

It is tough trying to determine which area may be better than the other. What a great problem to have! Too many areas with trophy-calibre mule deer, making it tough to decide where the best place in the province is to hunt. The bottom line is that I will be back in the field this fall with my rifle, muzzleloader or bow enjoying the fruits of Alberta's mule deer management.

I can hardly wait. ■



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# A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY



by  
**Kevin  
Wilson**

**A**lberta is home to some of the finest waterfowling in the world. From magnificent harlequin ducks to snow geese, the prolific mallard, more Canadas than one can imagine and a veritable smorgasbord of diver and dabbling ducks, we've got it all. Diverse not only in native species, Alberta by virtue of habitat and location is situated under portions of the Central, Pacific and Mississippi Flyways.

Few would dispute that there is a certain romance attached to the waterfowl hunting experience. From the early rise, to the careful pre-dawn design of the decoy layout, and then the inevitable wait in anticipation – nothing compares. Then it happens. Far off in the distance, as planned, the faint honks and cackles can be heard coming your way. But before anyone can utter, "mark north!" the whistling wings and sudden quacks of early

arriving and fully committed mallards flood your blocks. With only a few minutes until legal light, everyone scrambles to cover up. Barely visible, the slender line of specklebellies approaches low off the deck. Incoming with no hesitation, someone will soon call the shot. And, just as expected, off in another direction, a flock of Canada geese can be heard. The promise of a truly memorable hunt looms before you.

The beauty is, hunts like this are commonplace in Alberta. We've got outstanding early season hunting for largely resident birds, but as the season and inevitable migration commences, new ducks and geese



constantly move through. Here's how to experience the various stages of waterfowl season first hand.

## Early Season

The first couple weeks of September offer exceptional opportunity for local birds. Decidedly more predictable, ducks and geese commit to just about any field or water spread without a second glance. Local flocks often consist of a variety including blue-winged teal, pintail, northern shoveler and mallard as the

most prevalent early season ducks. White-fronts and Canadas are reliable goose species throughout the early weeks.

## Mid Season

The Latter half of September and the first couple weeks of October bring cooler temperatures and falling leaves – picture perfect dawns when the sunlight glistens off frost-laden swaths of freshly cut barley fields. The cold, crisp air carries honks, cackles, and quacks for miles, as the sun breaks strong in the eastern horizon revealing a welcoming view of your decoys.

While the mid season offers some of the most spectacular

combination hunts, it can also become the most unpredictable time to hunt migrating waterfowl. Arctic geese and ducks nesting on the tundra, joined by their offspring move systematically southward. Constantly on the move, geese and ducks feeding in a field one day may not return the next. Although most duck species can be found during this peak period of Alberta's fall migration, among the most prolific are gadwall, wigeon, redhead, canvasback, goldeneye, scaup, bufflehead and mallard ducks. As for geese, snows begin to move through in earnest with Canadas ever present and specks making their debut through to the middle of October before quickly tapering off.

Regardless of natural flight patterns, there is the ever-present factor of hunting pressure. It is during this mid-season that heavily hunted birds become increasingly blind shy. As a rule, snows and specks are less reliable than Canadas. Often flighty and unsettled, it is not unheard of to have the entire group land just out of range.

## Late Season

Although finding birds can prove difficult throughout the last part of October through November and December, when scarce open water and prime food sources are discovered gunning can be fast and furious. Large Arctic geese and ducks, mostly Canadas and mallards are the mainstay with some diver ducks found



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where vast open water remains clear.

Invest the time scouting and you'll eventually be rewarded with access to prime feeding fields. When birds discover an excellent cereal crop at this time of year, they are reluctant to leave. Birds otherwise spooked earlier in the season, may seem suicidal as they beeline for their favourite feeding grounds.

### Gunning Savvy

Regardless of when you hunt, noting a few

rules of thumb will help ensure a quality experience. Each hunt begins with scouting. Locating birds and getting permission to hunt is your first priority. A good set of binoculars and a map showing good roost water, i.e., large lakes or other wetlands are a good place to start. By scanning the skies in the early morning or early evening, you will notice birds lifting off of the water on route to feeding fields.

Discovering a shoot can be as simple as following birds to where they feed. When you notice either staging water or feeding fields where multiple flocks are congregating, chances are you've got yourself a shoot. But it's equally important to identify precisely where the highest concentrations are feeding. Waterfowl, and geese in particular, are discerning. They know where they fed last and,

if undisturbed, will return to the exact same spot for consecutive days. Set up in the wrong place and birds may well land out of range regardless of how welcoming your decoys look.

Avoid disturbing birds on their roost. Roosts are safe havens and as long as they feel secure on these waters, they will

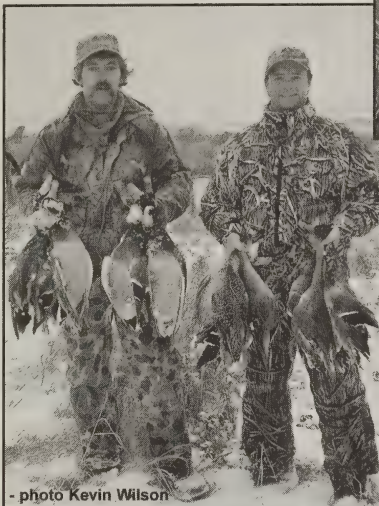


photo Kevin Wilson



photo Kevin Wilson

return thus providing an ongoing source of birds. While geese tend to go directly to the fields to feed, ducks often stage on a smaller marsh or shallow slough near their feeding field. By tossing out one or two-dozen duck decoys on the staging water you can instill confidence in incoming ducks resulting in a great small water shoot.

Alternatively, when setting up a field spread, the more decoys the better. While some

folks employ hundreds of decoys, I prefer a minimum of five dozen. Even still, quality can be more valuable than quantity. With any decoy spread, the more lifelike it appears, the better it will produce. Full body decoys, motion decoys and the way they are positioned can make all the difference in the world. Remember, you want to emulate natural relaxed feeding activity,

i.e., ducks and geese feeding into the wind. Only a few sentinels keep watch while the rest eat. Most hunters lay out their decoys in a "J" or "U" shape with a distinct hole in the middle. The top of the spread, or the hole, should be at

the windward end. While many field shooters set up at the bottom of the "J", educated birds sometimes flare as they approach. In tough conditions, consider positioning shooters at the top of the set instead. In difficult conditions, consider offsetting as much as 40 metres for shot opportunities at cautious birds.

As a finishing touch,

vocalizations add another element of realism to a good decoy set up. As birds become more educated throughout the season, effective callers are the ones who bring home the birds. Learning to use beckoning or confidence calls is invaluable.

If you're in any way curious about waterfowling, or you are yearning to revisit the golden fields and whistling wings of days gone by, there's no time like the present. Alberta has a world of waterfowling opportunity just waiting to be enjoyed. If you're already an avid bird hunter, remember to take a newcomer out this fall so they too can enjoy the great outdoors. ■



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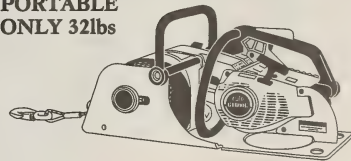
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# LATE SEASON ELK



by  
**T.J.  
Schwanky**

**T**here is nothing more pleasing than the sound of a bull elk bugling in the high country of the Alberta Rockies. It is an eerie yet alluring sound that has beckoned hunters for decades. Unfortunately, not all of us have the opportunity to hunt during the peak of the rut. While bull elk are relatively easy targets when a bugle may be employed to draw them in close, after the rut they become as difficult to hunt as any whitetail.

Elk, especially the big breeding bulls, are in their worst condition of the year in the late fall, having just endured the strenuous throws of the rut, and must feed heavily if they are to survive the winter. Patterning their feeding activities is the surest way to harvest your late-season trophy.

Big bulls abandon the cows shortly after the rut and will be found on their own or running together in bachelor herds by late October. They quickly forget about the intense battles of only a month previous and get down to the business of eating. The cows will also abandon the small harems and begin to form large herds that will stay together until calving. Small yearling bulls will often remain with the cows throughout the winter.

There will also be a bevy of two-year-old bulls that will join the cows after the rut and remain with them until late November. These are the bulls that were not quite big and aggressive enough to have a harem of their own during the rut but they quickly move in on the cows once the herd bulls have left. They are hoping to pick up a cow that was not bred during the rut.

For the hunter just looking to fill the freezer, these two-year-old bulls may be successfully bugled in right up until December. They are very unsure of their place in the herd and will usually come to investigate a bugle to see if the herd bull has returned or if another bull is moving in on their cows. This will not be a raging, vocal repartee like those with the big herd bulls during



- photo T.J. Schwanky

the rut, rather these bulls will usually sneak silently in to see what you are. While not nearly as exciting as bugling in September, it is an excellent way to fill the freezer nonetheless.

If it is the big bulls you are after, there is no sense even taking the bugle with you. These big guys are strictly interested in feeding and nothing more. Most hunters make the mistake of hunting the prime feeding fields and openings during early morning and late afternoon. While many cows and small bulls may venture into these openings during hours of light, the big bulls will usually wait for dark, especially if they have been heavily hunted.

Rather than hunting the fields themselves, the trick is to get back into the heavy cover they call home and intercept them on their way to the feeding fields. Most people think that elk become totally nocturnal when faced with heavy hunting pressure and do not leave their beds until darkness has befallen the earth. This is not true. While the elk will rarely venture into the open during daylight, they are up and feeding in the heavy cover often two hours before last shooting light.

Elk may travel several miles each day to reach a prime source of food. But, rather than get up from their bed and start a beeline for the food source, they will slowly make their way along, eating as they go. Remember, these bulls are in very poor shape and require great amounts of food to recuperate. While feed in the heavy cover is often marginal, it provides them with some nutrition while they are waiting for dark. The same holds true when they are returning to the bedding areas; they will usually eat as they go but do not linger as long as in the evenings.

Hunting bedded elk, especially when there is a large herd, is a tough

proposition. Hunting slow moving elk is quite easy in comparison. Elk will often follow the same routes day after day and it is just a matter of getting on these trails and waiting. By getting a mile or so away from the open field they are heading to, it is possible to catch them an hour or two before last light.

Position yourself so you have a good field of view and an unobstructed shooting lane to the primary trail. A cut line or power line deep in heavy cover is often a prime location. One of my favourites, and a spot that has produced several bulls for me, is a beaver dam. Often, the ice on beaver ponds is not thick enough or it is too slippery to support the weight of an elk and they are forced to walk right across the dam. The particular dam that I hunt is bordered on both sides by very heavy timber and the elk seem not to mind crossing the small opening in the daylight.

Try to pick a location that the elk are funneled to. This is the case with the beaver dam that I hunt. They dislike crossing the ice on both sides of it and choose the dam 99 times out of a hundred. A notch in a high rock ridge, trail in heavy timber or broken wire on a fence are all classic examples of funnels.

If you are not a sitter, it is quite possible to still hunt these migrating elk. This also works well when they are not relying on the same trails and there are no funnels. I like to work perpendicular to the way the elk are traveling.



photo T.J. Schwanky

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continued on page 71



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If they are moving down a slope, I will climb about half way up and work my way across. The real key here is to not be scented, heard or seen before you spot the elk. Elk are extremely wary and it takes great skill on the hunter's part to catch them unaware.

Don't be in a hurry. Move only when your eyes are on the ground and only take a few steps between pauses to glass with binoculars. Just looking ahead with your eyes is not enough. It is often only the tip of an antler or a patch of tan hair that gives an entire herd away. I have got my first look many times when the elk were less than 30 yards away.

If the ground cover is extremely noisy and there is no way to walk silently, it is beneficial to occasionally cow call. Cow elk are extremely vocal, especially in heavy timber and by occasionally calling you may be mistaken for another elk. The one danger here is that you are giving up your location and the elk will be looking for you, even if they think you are another elk. Rely on the cow call only if there is no way to walk silently.

The hardest part about hunting late-season elk is finding them. By limiting your search to areas of prime habitat, your chances of success are greatly increased. Most ranchers and farmers in elk country are pleased to have responsible hunters on their place. Wintering elk do extensive damage to crops, stacks and feed. The key is to get out and locate these hot spots long before the season opens and establish a rapport with the landowner. Nothing irritates them more than people looking for permission in the middle of hunting season.

Look for farms that have unharvested grain fields or alfalfa fields with good second growth. These are two of the elk's favourite sources of food. There may be some elk here early in the season, but it is when the cold winds and snow falls in November that they really get hot. In areas without tame crops, look for recent burns, or other areas of fibrous forage. The nutritional requirements of bull elk differ greatly from cows at this time of year and they will be found in the pockets with the highest concentration of nutritious forage. Finding where the cows and young bulls are feeding is no guarantee that the big bulls will be there. The more fat a bull looses during the rut and the more injuries he sustains, the more nutritious source of feed he must find and the more solitary he will become.

Just because the elk are not bugling is no excuse for not harvesting one. Late-season elk just require a little different strategy. If you just want to fill the freezer, there couldn't be a better time, as the cows and small bulls herd together and are easily located and patterned. The more solitary old herd bulls may be a little tougher, but at no other time of year are as predictable. Find the best sources of feed and you will find these grand old monarchs of the high country. ■

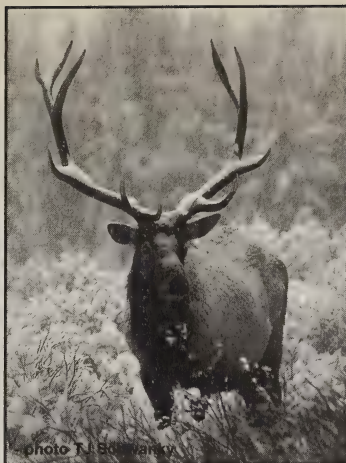


photo: T. S. Wainwright

# 2003 DEER FOR THE FOODBANK PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alberta Hunters Who Care Deer for the Foodbank Program in 2002. This is the seventh year of our program that has seen more than 31,000 pounds of high quality deer meat donated to the Edmonton Foodbank. Please help us feed those in need again in 2003. All hunters and outfitters are encouraged to participate. The hunter guidelines and responsibilities are listed below.

\* There are no extra deer tags allotted for this program. You are asked to share the harvest from any one of the general season or supplementary deer tags available.

1. Deer (whitetail or mule deer) are the only game eligible to be donated to this program.
2. Animals must be field dressed immediately after harvest. The HEART, LUNGS, and LIVER must be brought in with the carcass in an appropriate container or bag labeled with your tag number. Any abnormal growths or tissues found must also be noted and brought in to meat processor for examination.
3. If the animal is skinned it must be wrapped in a clean, porous covering (game bag, cheesecloth, clean cotton sheet, etc.) during transportation to a meat facility.
4. The carcass MUST be transported to a participating meat plant as quickly as possible. Under no circumstances is the time lapse to exceed 24 hours from the time of harvest. No completely frozen carcasses will be accepted for this program.
5. Deer are only eligible for this program if they were harvested in a participating WMU between Oct. 25 and Dec. 15, 2003 during the regular general seasons.
6. No gut shot animals or carcasses obviously contaminated with feces will be accepted for donation under this program. It is essential for the program that only the best quality game meat be provided.
7. The deer must have been harvested in one of these WMU's in order to be donated to the program: 200, 202, 203, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 330, 334, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 346, 348, 504, 506, 508, 728, 730, 936.
8. The only participating meat facilities are listed below. The deer must be taken to one of these facilities (contact them to ensure whether the deer can be brought in skinned or unskinned).

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- Vermillion Packers, Vermillion AB, (780) 853-4622
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- Humeniuk's Meats Cutting, Lavoie AB, (780) 658-2381
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# THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME



by  
**Duane  
Radford**

Is bagging a big game animal by being in the right place at the right time just pure dumb luck?

In this article I'll illustrate how to capitalize on big game behaviour and knowledge of their biology; how to think strategically no matter what species of big game is your quarry; the importance of advance scouting and the value of determining feeding areas and travel routes in order to position yourself at the right place. Also, why I recommend that you only hunt one kind of big game animal at a time for best results.

So, what can a hunter actually do in order to connect with big game on a consistent basis, or at least have an opportunity to be successful? While it may not be rocket science, there is a knack to being at the right place at the right time. This article will demonstrate how and why.

I'm going to start with my final point – the importance of hunting one kind of big game animal at a time. Many hunters have several tags on any given trip and make the mistake of trying to hunt them all at the same time. This is a no brainer . . . focus on one particular animal and if you do get a chance at another species count this as a bonus. You simply can't hunt strategically for more than one species at a time because the distribution, habits, habitat and behaviour of various species tends to vary too much. When I go hunting mule deer, for



example, I forget about hunting whitetails, moose or elk. That's for another day. I concentrate on looking for mule deer, period!

Start by making scouting trips to your chosen Wildlife Management Unit and by contacting landowners where necessary to get advance permission to hunt. If you're hunting a new area you may not learn enough on your first trip to be successful; concede that as a given. In fact, I don't expect to get a good understanding of new hunting territory for at least 2-3 years. However, I know enough about the behaviour of the different species that I do expect to have at least a few opportunities to score on my first time out, regardless of where I'm hunting.

Secondly, give yourself enough time during a hunting trip to be successful. Connecting on a one day hunt is a long shot in new territory. Plan for a least 2-3 days, and preferably 5-6 days. Weather is always a key factor on a hunting trip. I've had trips where it's rained cats and dogs for several days and I've been snowed in many times. On other

occasions the wind blew so hard I could barely stand up and sometimes ground fog has made hunting impossible for days on end. Make an allowance for some bad weather by giving yourself adequate time. The more time you spend hunting the greater your chances are at being successful.

A basic understanding of big game behaviour and habitat preferences is a must. Develop an understanding of what a particular species requires to survive and how it's likely to behave during the hunting season. For example, moose are browsers and feed on willows and saplings in areas of new growth. Look for them in likely feeding areas, not in old-growth forested areas. Mule deer are also browsers so you can also expect to find them feeding on shrubs, chokecherry and Saskatoon bushes. They are also creatures of open



spaces so look for them on the edge of aspen stands and coulees in the foothills and prairies, or close to timberline in the mountains on bighorn sheep range. Whitetails are creatures of the bush. They do venture from the cover of trees but only when traveling and feeding, or

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searching for mates during the rut. Antelope are where you find them on the open plains but they're never very far from sagebrush or cereal crops, or a water hole. Elk and bighorn sheep are primarily grazers and you should look for them feeding on grasses and bushes in open spaces. Focus on pastures, logged areas or openings in the bush on an elk hunt.

Travel routes are prime spots to catch big game animals out in the open. They tend to move between bedding areas and feeding areas along certain, well-established trails. Once you locate these routes it's fairly easy to predict where they will exit and enter the bush. These routes are generally used by all species of big game in the forested areas of Alberta, whether they are moose, white-tailed deer, elk or mule deer. It may take some time to locate these routes but on the ground scouting will pay dividends. Look for droppings along game trails, rubs and scrapes to get a better idea of what species are keying on them. Pronghorn antelope will also favour certain crossings under fences where they can shinny under the barbed wire without losing too much hair – look for strands of hair to locate favoured crossings. Big game animals are creatures of habit. They will use established game trails year in and year out. Keep a mental note of these trails, and crossings.

All big game animals require water. Look for tracks around springs, streams and dugouts to determine prime watering sites. Deer will even lick ice if snow is lacking. Make an allowance for watering holes in planning your hunt.

What's the best time to spot animals? While the first and last hour of daylight are prime times you can expect to locate mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, moose and bighorn sheep at any time during the day. Elk are the only species that are seldom found in the open during daylight hours. Many hunters head back to camp at 9:00 am – this is a mistake. Most big game animals can be found throughout the day if you actively look for them. You have to be patient though and field glasses are often a must to spot them. Even elk can be found in the open when the weather is inclement. When you're in the field, hunt hard from sunrise to

sundown. You can, and will, see game throughout the whole day!

Play your hunches and work on your better judgment, or instincts for that matter. Prepare yourself for a shot regardless of the time of day by thinking positively. The odds are in your favour.

I've given you some pieces of the puzzle to help you determine where you're most likely to see an animal, at various times during the day, whether it be feeding or traveling between feeding and bedding area, or in search of a mate. By focusing on where it's likely to feed, water and bed, your chances greatly improve. Put yourself within striking distance of these spots and watch for your quarry, you'll be surprised at how many animals you'll see and how many chances you'll have for a shot.

I don't think that hunters should have to hope to be successful; they should expect to be successful. They shouldn't wait for an opportunity to take a big game animal; they should create an opportunity. ■



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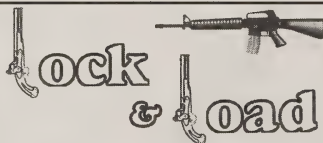
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### MULE DEER

**Jerry Ewasiuk (\$250)**

Jerry Ewasiuk of Edmonton, Alberta scored this heavy mule deer near Veteran. Jerry's buck grossed 170 7/8 but was hit hard with deductions, resulting in a final score of 138 4/8 (official). Jerry takes home \$250 and should be congratulated on being named Alberta's Mule Deer Hunter of the Year.



### ELK

**Brent Kuntz (\$500)**

Brent Kuntz of Heisler, Alberta took this incredible elk in WMU 202 near Flagstaff. Brent's elk scored 396 4/8 (official) making him our 2002 Alberta Hunter of the Year. Brent's bull, which was taken by bow, scored 94% to the current provincial record for elk. Congratulations Brent.



### WHITE-TAILED DEER

**Aldo Zanon (\$250)**

Aldo Zanon claimed this beauty from WMU 509 near Athabasca. Aldo's buck lost 20 7/8 inches to deductions but ended up scoring an awesome 174 0/8 (official). Aldo becomes our White-tailed Deer Hunter of the Year for 2002 and will have bragging rights around the campfire in 2003. Way to go Aldo!

## SPORTS SCENE PUBLICATIONS presents the

# **2003 ALBERTA HUNTERS OF THE YEAR**

## **RULES**

- 1) Any Alberta resident hunting legally in Alberta may enter.
- 2) Typically scored Whitetail, Mule Deer and Elk are the eligible species. Non-Typical scores will not qualify.
- 3) A hunter may enter only one animal per species.
- 4) All qualifying game must be taken under "Fair Chase" as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club.
- 5) All qualifying game must be scored by an Official Boone and Crockett Measurer and cannot be scored until after the trophy has dried for 60 or more days after harvest date.
- 6) Each entrant must submit a photo of themselves with their trophy, as well as a photo of the trophy by itself. All photos become the property of Sports

Scene and may be reproduced at Sports Scene's discretion.

- 7) Each entrant must follow all Boone and Crockett Trophy Entry Requirements and a copy of the original score chart, signed and dated by the Official Measurer, must be sent to Sports Scene along with photos.
- 8) Sports Scene Publications Inc. reserves the right to reject or accept any entry and all decisions will be final.
- 9) The Grand Prize will be awarded to the hunter whose trophy won its category and came closest (on percentage basis) to the current provincial record for that species.
- 10) All prizes must be accepted as awarded.
- 11) Contest opens September 30, 2003 and closes May 1, 2004.

## **PRIZES**

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as well as have his or her picture with their trophy, published in next years regulations. The Grand Prize winner will also receive an extra \$250 for a grand total of

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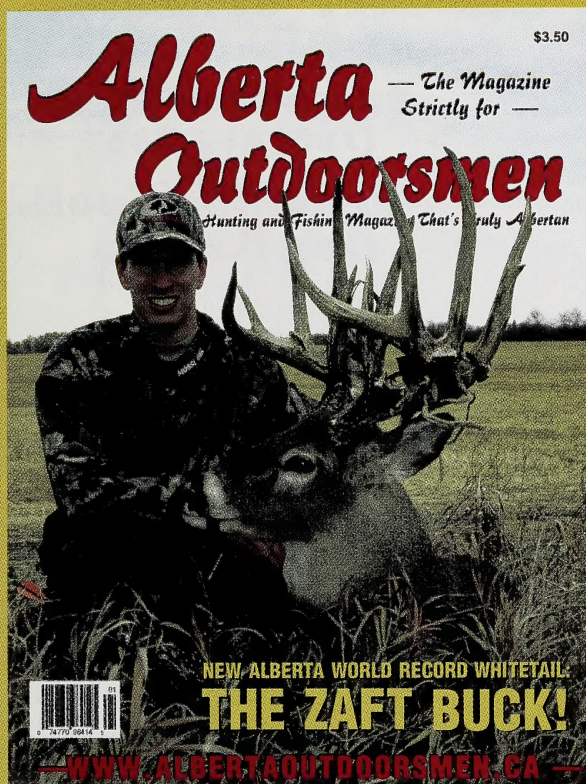
NAME: _____	DIVISION: Whitetail ___ Mule Deer ___ Elk ___
ADDRESS: _____	WMU where trophy was taken: _____
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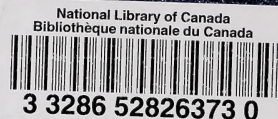
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